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JPRS Report

Narcotics

Narcotics

JPRS-TDD-91-016-L

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INTERNATIONAL

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Oslo To Host European-Wide Drug Conference

91WD0577A Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian
13 Mar 91 p 52

[Article by Jorgen R. Lohne: "Europe Gathers Against Drugs"; first paragraph is AFTENPOSTEN introduction]

[Text] All European governments are invited to participate in a major narcotics conference in Oslo on 9 and 10 May. The East European countries will play an important role according to the plan for the conference.

"This is the first time such an all-European conference on narcotics is coming about. Especially important is the fact that the East European countries will be taking part too," says Minister of Social Affairs Tove Veierod. As leader of the Council of Europe's cooperation group for narcotics questions, the "Pompidou group," she has the responsibility for the conference.

A new situation has arisen in the area of narcotics, as well, since the East Europeans rebelled against communism. Therefore, it is planned that the East European countries will play a significant role during the conference.

A group of senior officials, led by Public Health Director Torbjorn Mork, has worked out the following four main points for the conference:

- What is the narcotics situation in Europe since the countries in East Europe have opened their borders?
- What preventive measures can the countries carry out with the aim of reducing the demand for narcotics, and what leads to misuse of narcotics?
- What can be done to reduce access to narcotics? This point pertains to control measures, most importantly police and customs efforts.
- How can West and East Europe cooperate in the future to combat narcotics? A part of the traffic to West Europe takes the so-called Balkan route via East Europe. Together with, for example, amphetamine production in Poland, this is among the problems that West European authorities want the new rulers in the East to take action against.

The initiative for the conference came originally from the government chiefs in the EC, who together urged the "Pompidou group" to arrange the event. This happened when Italy had the chairmanship of the group and that country has therefore taken part in the preparations before the Oslo conference.

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GHANA

Hemp Trafficking Endemic Problem in Prisons

91WD0594A London WEST AFRICA in English
11-17 Mar 91 p 347—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Article by Ajoa-Yeboah-Afari; italicized words as published]

[Text] The State guests at the Nsawam Medium Security Prisons appear to disprove the notion that imprisonment is a sure way of keeping people out of trouble with the law. It has been revealed that Indian hemp trafficking in the prison has become such an intractable problem that the prison administration has resorted to prosecuting the offending prisoners at the public tribunal, and some of them have found themselves saddled with additional sentences.

This revelation was made recently by a highly placed source at the Prison Headquarters in Accra, in a reaction to a front page report in the WEEKLY SPECTATOR of 12 February. The report filed by the Ghana News Agency [GNA], stated that since August last year, 13 convicted prisoners at Nsawam Prisons—situated on the outskirts of the town of Nsawam, near Accra—have appeared before the Eastern Regional tribunal, charged with either selling or smoking Indian hemp.

The total of Indian hemp involved was 173.5 grams. According to the Ghana News Agency all the 13 pleaded guilty to charges of either handling or selling, or smoking Indian hemp—or Marijuana, better known in Ghana as *Wee*.

Recently, in February, sentencing three more prisoners from Nsawam to various terms of imprisonment, the chairman of the Eastern regional public tribunal, Mr. E.F. Dzakupasu, expressed the view, the GNA said, that someone outside the prison might be behind the narcotics trade at the prison.

The three reportedly included Kojo Evli, serving a life sentence for murder. He was bonded to be of good behaviour or serve five years in isolation, for selling 41 grams of *Indian hemp*. Four other convicts and a warder are awaiting trial for either possessing, selling or smoking leaves suspected to be Indian hemp, the GNA report said.

Commenting on the report, a spokesman for the prison administration said that prosecution of convicted prisoners for Indian hemp offences was a new measure they started in 1990 to deal with the problem effectively. In the past, he explained, prisoners who were caught with drugs were subjected to prison discipline, such as confinement to cell, or loss of certain privileges.

However, these were found to be ineffective, hence the new policy, which also affects any prison staff involved. The expectation is that the probability of additional sentencing will serve as a stronger deterrent. Also, it was

hoped that the tribunal prosecutions would discourage visitors to prisons from smuggling narcotics to prisoners.

The spokesman pointed out that smuggling of such substances into prison was a world-wide problem. A high percentage of the prisoners at Nsawam are interned there for Indian hemp offences, he added, hence the perennial nature of the problem. In answer to the question whether the new measure of tribunal prosecution was getting expected results, the spokesman said it was.

He explained that the quantity of Marijuana found in cells during weekly searches had reduced. Apparently the fear of getting as much as two years more in jail as has happened in some cases, the spokesman said, not to mention the fear of forfeiting remission of sentences, has made some of the would-be "double-offenders" think twice.

KENYA

Arrests 'Have Not Affected' Ties To Nigeria

91WD0597B Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English
9 Mar 91 p 2

[Article by Peter Kiongo]

[Text] The arrest and subsequent jailings of several Nigerians caught transporting drugs through Kenya has not affected relations with Nigeria, the outgoing country's High Commissioner said yesterday.

The High Commissioner, Mr. Sunday Ezuma Igwe, said that such people would in fact have been jailed for life if caught with drugs in Nigeria and worse still be executed in other countries.

"These are people who try to get a shortcut through Kenya from their points of origin in Asia," said the envoy. He was talking during a farewell luncheon hosted in his honour by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Nairobi.

"In fact the relations between Kenya and Nigeria have been improving day by day," he said, adding that this was reflected in the increased co-operation in education, culture and air transport services agreements reached between the two governments in the recent past.

He added that the register of societies had agreed to register the Nigeria-Kenya Society which would enable privateers from both countries to meet and transact business. He had asked the Government to assist the society, he said.

In his speech, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Mr. Ndolo Ayah, said that Nigeria had been a great source of inspiration to the rest of black Africa in its undaunted stand for the total decolonisation of the continent, especially in elimination of apartheid social policy in South Africa.

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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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Mr. Ayah, in the speech read on his behalf by his assistant, Mr. Chris Obure, said that Angola and Mozambique had now become free and all that remained was for them to find peace which had been elusive due to the rebellious groups there.

"Namibia is at long last free, the great son of Africa Nelson Mandela is free and is now playing a key role in dismantling of the last vestiges of apartheid," said Mr. Ayah.

Court Sentences Drug Courier

91WD0597A Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English
5 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] A Dutchwoman was yesterday sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a Nairobi court after pleading guilty to a charge of possessing eight packets of heroin weighing 1,030 grammes worth Sh[shillings]4 million in street value.

Alta Gracia Morendo, aged 46, was arraigned before the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Omondi Tunya and admitted through an interpreter of being a courier trading in the dangerous drugs.

Morendo, dressed in a black costume and heavily braided hair and discreet lipstick, was arrested by the anti-narcotics police officers at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on 23 February, shortly before midnight as she prepared to fly back home in Netherlands.

Prosecuting, Superintendent Peter Mwangi told the court that Morendo arrived in the country, four days earlier. "She went to the airport intending to fly back home when anti-narcotics squad suspected her of trafficking narcotics. After a search, she was found with heroin concealed in her private parts and under the breasts," the prosecutor said.

He said the drugs were packed in polythene bags.

In mitigation, Morendo told the Chief Magistrate that the heroin "was given to me by a certain man" and she was taking it to a man who was waiting at a hotel in Amsterdam (Netherlands). She claimed further that the drugs were given to her by "somebody else" and was taking them to a "certain man" at home who had promised to pay her for the work done.

Passing sentence, Mr. Omondi noted that the accused was a courier who was engaged in the illicit trade. He said the court had in the past passed a stiffer sentence to international narcotics traffickers and will continue doing so in a bid to eradicate the menace.

In the same court, an American tourist, Dr. Wilson Ralph Sloan was fined Sh30,000 or six months' jail in default for mutilating currency amounting to Sh400.

Dr. Sloan tore Kenyan currency of various denominations at the National Bank counter at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Saturday night. He pleaded guilty.

Supt. Mwangi told the court that the tourist was set to fly back home when he was found in possession of the Kenyan currency. He was advised to change the money, but did not have the necessary exchange receipts. He requested for his money and tore it into pieces. He was apprehended, said the prosecutor.

NAMIBIA**Trafficking Seizures, Arrests Up; Penalties Down**

91WD0617A Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English
11 Mar 91 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] The Namibian Police will today mark an early victory in a battle to smash a new Namibian drugs syndicate when three people are expected to appear in court.

They were arrested last week, following a raid on a house in Katutura on Wednesday when police nabbed 3,000 Mandrax tablets and 41 kilograms of marijuana or dagga, worth a total of R[rands]116,000.

The drugs squad would not reveal more details of the arrests and the raids as they say it is only the start of a series of swoops on a syndicate bringing the drugs into Namibia. They hope there will soon be more arrests.

According to police representative Sean Geyser, the trafficking of drugs into Namibia is increasing dramatically.

He added that the police are also bitter about the small sentences handed down by courts.

Statistics show how the rate of traffic is increasing. Dagga seizures totalled 215 kilograms in 1989, 450 in 1990 and so far this year 90 kilograms have been seized by the drugs squad.

So far this year 63 people have been arrested, compared to 28 last year.

Formerly penalties were very severe, with the mere possession of dagga having a compulsory five year sentence. Now the pendulum has swung the other way and in a recent case someone found guilty of dealing was given a six-month sentence with three months suspended, meaning they may only serve one month.

Dagga and mandrax are the main drugs smuggled in for sale to Namibians. Dagga mainly comes from South Africa and in this case information suggests it is from Transkei, where one of those arrested in the latest swoop comes from.

Mandrax, here in the form of tablets called "Hitlers" or "Germans" because of the small swastika on them, is

only illegal in South Africa and Namibia and so is freely available from other countries, notably Zambia. The illegal substance in it is a depressant or downer called Methaqualone.

Geyser explained that it is very difficult to control drugs traffic: "No border control has ever been effective. We would have to check every metre of the border as well as aeroplanes and so on."

According to the police, crimes related to drugs are also rising, including house-breaking and violent crime related to the drugs syndicates. [passage omitted]

SWAZILAND

Concern Over New 'Red Mercury' Drug

MB1004100491 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 24

[Report by Mhlengi Mbatha: "New Drug Menace Spreads"]

[Excerpt] A new drug, described as highly toxic and potentially lethal, has become the latest menace spreading among young people in the country.

It is called "red mercury", which is said to be the popular name among the users.

Chemical experts believe the drug is an extract of mercury which is used in the manufacture of explosives and comes in either liquid form or powder.

It has been also learnt that mercury is used in the manufacture of counterfeit money.

Doctors say they are particularly alarmed because the use of the drug seems to be predominant among school children.

A doctor at the Mbabane Government Hospital disclosed that several victims of the drug had been treated recently from the effects of the drug, nearly all of them from a very popular high school in Mbabane.

He said in just about all the cases, the victims had consumed the powder which seems to be the most widely available.

"We have so far not come across cases involving the liquid which is the most highly dangerous and is injected into the blood stream with hypodermic needles," he said.

The doctor said symptoms of the effects of the drug are somewhat similar to those induced by other drugs such as cocaine, which is a general state of mental disarray.

But sources who have been exposed to the drug say it is more valued in the market than the popular mandrax and induces a high that is astounding and longer lasting than that of mandrax.

A prominent businessman in Manzini who is also a self confessed drug lord admitted to THE TIMES that red mercury was the latest lucrative commodity in the trade.

In an exclusive interview the dealer said it is mainly for sale in South Africa.

Police spokesman Sub-Inspector Azaria Ndzimandze, asked for comment said: "I was not aware that this is also being smuggled into the country.

"As far as I know mercury is used in the manufacture of explosives."

Asked for comment, the Council on Smoking, Alcohol and Drug Dependence (COSAD) said they were not aware of the drug.

The Council Executive Director Dr David Pritchard said he thinks the drug might have another name and said he would be interested in knowing more about it. [passage omitted]

TANZANIA

Interior Minister Promises Reward for Narcotics Information

EA0604213091 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Dar es Salaam—Comrade Augustine Mrema, the interior minister, has promised a reward of 10,000 shillings to any citizen who gives information that will enable the government to arrest people involved in trading drugs, bhanghi [cannabis sativa], and mirungi [catha edulis forskal] in the country. The minister made the pledge today when he was addressing the citizens at the culmination of parents' week celebrations, which were observed at the regional level at the 14th Subdistrict in Temeke District.

He said that if such evils were ignored, it would be difficult for the nation's parents to control the conduct and behavior of the youth, who constitute the future of the nation.

Comrade Mrema also pledged a reward of 1,000 shillings to any citizen who reveals the secrets surrounding the businessmen who make a racket out of beer, saying that if the practice is allowed to take root in society, children will make a habit of thieving. Comrade Mrema also decried the habit of some parents who use dirty language while riding public transport. He said that the habit constitutes a lack of accountability in upbringing. On defense, Comrade Mrema said his ministry will not hesitate to take stern measures against the area secretaries who have not yet carried out the government directive requiring them to build subpolice stations in their areas by February this year.

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CHINA

5

Revised Legislation on Punishments for Drug-Related Crimes Discussed

91WD04844 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese
8 Feb 91 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Studying the Implementation of Two Resolutions—Definition and Punishment of the Manufacture, Sale, and Transportation of Narcotics"]

[Text] Article 2 of the "Resolution Regarding the Prohibition of Narcotics" [RPN] passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is an important amendment and improvements of the provisions in Article 171 of the Penal Code regarding the definition and punishment of the manufacture, sales, and transportation of narcotics. This is of great significance for the strict suppression according to law of drug-related crimes.

1. Definition of manufacture, sale, and transportation of narcotics

According to the provisions of Article 2 of the RPN, manufacture, sale, and transportation of narcotics refers to the act of manufacturing, selling, and transporting of opium, heroin, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, and any other narcotic. To constitute the act of manufacturing, selling, and transporting of narcotics the following conditions must be fulfilled:

(1) The act must objectively be the manufacture, sale, or transportation of opium, heroin, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, or other narcotics. Manufacturing refers to the compounding of raw materials by whatever methods. The method of manufacture, whether by hand or by machine, is irrelevant. "Sale" refers to trading in narcotics, regardless whether retail or wholesale, or whether it is first buying in or later selling out, as long as what is bought or sold is opium, heroin, or any other narcotic, it will constitute the said crime. Moreover, sales need not be conducted repeatedly or for immediate profit to constitute the said crime. A one-time sale and even sales that result in a monetary loss constitute this crime. Transportation refers to transferring and conveying, regardless whether done personally or through a transporting agent, also regardless whether between domestic points, or from or to abroad, as long as a transportation has taken place it constitutes the said crime.

(2) The act must subjectively be carried out intentionally, i.e., with the clear knowledge that what is being manufactured, sold, or transported is a narcotic, otherwise it would not constitute the said crime. Take, for instance, the case that someone commissions person A to move a box from one place to another. A being told that the box contains clothes, but is found on inspection to contain heroin or other narcotics. Even though the narcotics will have to be confiscated and an inquiry of the legal responsibility of the owner will have to be made, the action of person A, not having known that the

box contained narcotics, thus not having knowingly and intentionally committed a crime, does not constitute a crime.

2. Some Questions To Be Observed in the Handling of Cases of Manufacture, Sale, and Transportation of Narcotics

(1) If a person does all the manufacturing, selling, and transporting himself, should he receive concurrent punishment for several crimes?

In judicial practice, the acts of manufacturing, selling, and transporting are frequently closely tied together. The person who commits the crime will often be manufacturing as well as selling and transporting, especially the acts of selling and transporting of narcotics are more often tied together. In situations like this, the culprit, although guilty of several criminal acts, may be punished as having committed one crime, and there is no need to consider it several crimes to be punished concurrently. It might not be amiss to point out that it constitutes a crime even if only one of the three acts, namely the manufacture, sale, or transportation, has been committed. The crime may be named according to what has specifically been enacted, thus as the crime of manufacturing, the crime of selling, or the crime of transporting narcotics.

(2) How are those to be dealt with who are guilty of growing opium poppies or other raw materials for narcotics?

Before promulgation and implementation of the RPN, the judicial authorities have generally considered growing of raw materials for narcotics as acts of manufacturing narcotics. The Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate have promulgated on 9 July 1990 a set of "Provisions Regarding the Illegal Growing of Opium Poppies To Constitute a Crime and Its Punishment as Manufacturing Narcotics." These provisions too regard the growing of raw materials for narcotics as a kind of manufacturing narcotics, and furthermore clearly want the illegal growing of opium poppies to be considered a crime to be punished according to Article 171 of the Penal Code. Presently, Article 6 of the RPN explicitly establishes the illegal growing of raw materials for narcotics as a new crime, apart from the act of manufacturing narcotics. From now on, all persons guilty of illegal growing of raw materials for narcotics shall be punished as having committed the crime of illegal growing of raw materials for narcotics.

(3) How To Differentiate Between Manufacturing and Selling Narcotics and the Sale of Spurious Medicines?

The crime of manufacturing and selling narcotics and the crime of selling spurious medicines differ mainly in the following ways: (1) Difference in the offense objective. The former violates the state's order of narcotics control, while the latter violates the state's system of pharmaceutical control. (2) Difference in the immediate materials of the crime. The immediate material of the

former is opium, heroin, morphine, cocaine, or other narcotics, while in the latter case it is spurious and bad medicine. (3) The subjective requirements are different. Although both crimes are committed intentionally, there is a difference in intentions. In the former, profit need not be the motive, while in the latter case there is the requirement of being committed "for the purpose of making a profit."

3. Penalties for Manufacturing, Selling, or Transporting Narcotics

Article 2 of the RPN prescribed the following penalties:

(1) For the manufacture, sale, or transportation of up to 200 gram of opium, up to 10 gram of heroin or small quantities of other narcotics the penalty is up to seven years of fixed-term imprisonment, detention, or surveillance, a fine may be concurrently imposed.

(2) For the manufacture, sale, or transportation of from 200 up to 1,000 gram of opium, or from 10 to 50 gram of heroin, or comparatively large quantities of other narcotics the penalty is fixed-term imprisonment of not below seven years; a fine may be concurrently imposed.

(3) For the manufacture, sale, or transportation of over 1,000 gram of opium, or over 50 gram of heroin, or large quantities of other narcotics, or for the main ringleaders of gangs manufacturing, selling, or transporting narcotics, or for those who act as armed guards for the manufacture, sale, or transportation of narcotics, or for those who use violent force in resisting inspection, arrest, or apprehension, if the circumstances of the case are serious, or for those who participate in the activities of international drug rings, the penalty is 15 years imprisonment, or life imprisonment, or death, with confiscation of all property.

The said article, furthermore, prescribes in definite terms severe punishment for the employment of minors or the instigation of minors to participate in the manufacture, sale, or transportation of narcotics. If several acts of manufacturing, selling, or transportation of narcotics have taken place, and all have not yet been punished, the aggregate quantity involved in all these acts shall be considered as quantity for which punishment is meted out.

Qiao Shi Calls for Strong Measures Against Drug Traffickers

HK1104065191 Hong Kong WEN WEI PO in Chinese
7 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by WEN WEI PO news-gathering team: "Qiao Shi Urges Cutting Off Drug Supply"]

[Text] Qiao Shi, member of the CPC of Central Committee Political Bureau Standing Committee, responded the other day to the antidrug issues raised by the National People's Congress. He called on all localities to

comprehensively apply various effective means, stress the main points, crack down hard on drug trafficking, and strive to attain marked results within this year.

A source quoted Qiao Shi as saying that it is necessary to cut off the drug supply, enforce strict inspection at ports, and step up drug inspections and seizures on several major drug routes within the borders to prevent drugs from spreading inland; expand the antidrug force and improve equipment in order to enhance the capabilities to make inspections and file charges. Where the problem is serious, it is necessary, as we did during the antidrug campaign in the early years of the People's Republic, to extensively mobilize the masses, launch large-scale, concentrated activities to crackdown, inspect, and suppress drug trafficking in an effort to attain practical results.

The source said: The central authorities have a strong resolve on this issue, stressing that serious criminal offenders who smuggle, traffic in, transport, and manufacture drugs on a large scale and who induce or instigate people to take drugs must be punished according to the law, sentencing them to death as necessary. On no account should we deal with them leniently. It is necessary to promptly eradicate illegal growing of plants for the manufacture of drugs. Some drug rehabilitation centers should be set up to dispense antidrug medicine and to take in drug addicts, who should be forced to kick the habit.

It has been learned that drug trafficking and manufacturing has developed rapidly on the mainland in recent years. The number of people taking drugs has increased dramatically, and the illegal planting of poppies has also been spotted in many places. What makes people particularly concerned is the enormous quantity of drugs being trafficked. Cases of people trafficking over 30,000 grams of heroin a time have been found on many occasions and, in some cases, drugs are sent under armed escort to various parts of the country from the southwest, northwest, and northeast. Incidents of violent resistance to antidrug measures also occur from time to time.

Prefecture in Yunnan Cracks Down on Drugs

HK0604072091 Beijing CHINA DAILY in English
6 Apr 91 p 3

[By staff reporter Wang Rong]

[Text] China's war on drug trafficking has taken on new proportions in Dehong Prefecture in the southeastern frontier province of Yunnan, an area which has become one of China's largest opium and heroin trafficking regions.

Bordering the notorious Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia, officials in Dehong have become alerted to the considerable increase in young addicts in the past four years, and the Dehong government has tried to help the young addicts recover from their dependency as part of the anti-drug campaign.

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According to Jin Degui, vice-secretary of the prefecture's Party committee, a total of 6,851 addicts, or 43 percent of the addicts in the prefecture, were successfully treated in 1,249 local drug-rehabilitation centres last year.

About 40 percent of those treated were heroin addicts, the others were addicted to opium, from which heroin is abstracted.

Another 100 addicts were able to give up their habits on their own last year, according to Jin. Of the rehabilitated addicts, only 10 percent are estimated to return to drugs, says Jin.

The drug-rehabilitation centres started using a newly invented traditional Chinese medicinal soup and an injection to aid in the therapy.

The new pain-free therapy is said to be "more acceptable to addicts and more effective." It kills heroin craving in a 10-day to one month period.

The drug-rehabilitation project cost the Dehong government 1.2 million yuan last year, according to Jin.

Treatment at the Dehong centres costs 200 to 300 yuan per person, including medicine and food and lodging, Jin said, since most of the addicts have drained their savings to buy heroin at a price of 50 to 60 yuan per gram.

The cost in similar centres in Kunming, the provincial capital, is up to 1,000 yuan for each addict.

Drug-rehabilitation centres for young people are a lenient means of dealing with drug addicts compared with labour centres, Jin said. But chronic, adult addicts and the addict-turned thieves, burglars or prostitutes are sentenced in line with the criminal law and relevant regulations.

"We've issued three such regulations regarding drug addiction in the past two years," he added.

For those who have completed treatment at a centre, they must sign a pledge stating that they will not use drugs again before they are allowed to return home. Afterward, they, like everybody else, will be under the supervision of a network of anti-drug organization at the county, township, village and family level. Family members are their constant supervisors and are supposed to send them back to the centres if they start using drugs again.

Today's parents face few more serious threats than that of their children becoming drug addicted. For residents of Dehong, heroin is sold in the markets just across the border.

Teenagers, curious by nature and exposed to the luring "No 4"—nickname local people use for heroin—are often the first to fall victim to the white powder.

Furthermore, drug dealers have been using Dehong as a trafficking centre and as a result the number of drug addicts in Dehong climbed from 31 in 1983 to the current estimate of over 10,000. Some 80 percent of today's addicts are young and middle-aged people, according to Jin.

The number of heroin addicts have risen sharply since 1986 when the heroin industry boomed in the neighboring country and more heroin was smuggled across the border to Dehong. Last year 1,000 kilograms of heroin were brought across the border to Dehong, according to Jin.

Some 200 people have died from drug abuse in Dehong. Now that 80 percent of the heroin addicts there use syringes, often unsterilized, Dehong is also seeing a rise in the number of people who test positive for the HIV virus.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Joint Military Action To Be Launched To Stop Khun Sa*BK0704011791 Bangkok THE NATION in English
7 Apr 91 p A1*

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetluk]

[Text] Thai and Burmese military have agreed to launch a sustained "search-and-destroy" campaign to suppress the personal army of drug kingpin Khun Sa and disrupt its heroin production in the Golden Triangle, military sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The United States has agreed to extend Bt[baht]1 billion to fund the campaign whose details are still under the wrap, the sources said.

The main thrust of the campaign is to search and destroy Khun Sa's forces and disrupt their ability to produce and distribute heroin through Thailand.

The sources said Thai troops would form the backbone of the operations, expected to start late this month in the border areas opposite Mae Hong Son province in northern Thailand. The campaign, which was agreed upon by the three sides, will be sustained until "we can extirpate the world's largest narcotics production movement", the sources said.

There was no time-frame set for the conclusion of the campaign, the sources said.

Khun Sa's Muang Tai army is estimated to have a strength of about 5,000 men.

The Burmese military, the sources said, had more logistics problems than the Thai side and would therefore support the offensive by forcing Khun Sa's men from areas deep inside Burma towards the border.

The sources said the Thai military had decided that it was time to go after Khun Sa's forces relentlessly to show to the world that Thailand took a serious view of the narcotics problem.

The Thai military has also learned that the operations of Khun Sa's forces were greatly damaging to Thailand's economic and security interests.

The sources said a group of Thai loggers who won concessions from Burma had colluded with Khun Sa in depleting Thai forest on the border.

"With assistance from Khun Sa, Thai trees were felled, transported into Burmese territory and brought into Thailand as if they were products of the logging concessions in Burma," said one source who asked not to be identified.

The sources also said that the unscrupulous Thai loggers also supplied war weapons to Khun Sa's army.

Khun Sa has probably expected the forthcoming military campaign against his army after the Third Army Region ferociously bombed his strongholds in Doi Laktaeng and Doi Laem inside Burma close to the border district town of Mae Ai in Chiang Mai last month.

The Third Army Region resorted to artillery shelling, aerial bombing and strafing by helicopter gunships in the operation against the outlawed force's hide-outs on the two hills in what was officially described as retaliation for the deaths and injuries caused by stray mortar shells supposedly fired by Khun Sa troops.

The mortar shells landed on the Thai side during a flare-up between Khun Sa's army and the rival Wa force, a minority Burmese movement seeking to capture Khun Sa's strongholds.

Khun Sa's forces finally retreated from the bases as a result of the battering they took from the Thais.

The retaliation to "protect the lives and properties of Thai villagers on the border" dealt a heavy blow to Khun Sa because Mae Ai district, which is just about 2.5 km from the drug lord's former base on Doi Laktaeng, was the major source of supply for his outlawed army.

"We practically cut a major lifeline of Khun Sa's army," one source said.

The Muang Tai army established its strongholds on the two hills two years ago and reportedly used Mae Ai and Fang districts as the main routes to smuggle narcotic products.

Khun Sa Wants Thailand in Joint Efforts on Narcotics*BK1004022391 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Apr 91 p A5*

[By Dom Suwawan and Kamphon Khotsaengma]

[Text] Chiang Mai—After being pounded by the Thai military and learning that Bangkok and Rangoon have agreed to launch a sustained campaign against him, Khun Sa is trying to wriggle out of a corner.

The drug kingpin wants Thailand to join forces with him and dissident ethnic groups to fight the Rangoon regime, claiming that this was the only way to get rid of the drug problem.

He urged the Thai Government to refrain from helping the Burmese military junta to suppress his group if it wanted to eradicate heroin production and distribution, his aides said yesterday.

The message was in response to reports that the Thai and Burmese military have agreed to launch a sustained "search-and-destroy" campaign to suppress Khun Sa's personal army, Mong Tai Army [MTA], and disrupt its heroin production in the Golden Triangle.

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Most of the drugs come from the areas straddling the eastern front of the Burmese Northern State of Shan and Thailand's northern provinces of Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

The Thai Government should help the MTA and other armed dissident ethnic groups to liberate the Shan State from Rangoon if it really wanted to eliminate the narcotic problem. MTA's liaison officer Khernsai Jaiyane and Khun Sa's political adviser Khwan Mung said in an interview with THE NATION.

Khernsai said the MTA had a post-liberation plan to improve its people's standard of living which would eventually do away with the need for them to depend on opium cultivation for their livelihood.

Khernsai said Thailand stood to benefit from the abundant natural resources like timber and gem stones in Shan State.

He also dismissed reports that Khun Sa's group was the biggest producer of heroin as inaccurate, saying his group was discouraging the people from growing opium.

However, he accepted that some of them still had to rely on opium cultivation as there was no other way they could earn a better income.

"When we try to grow rice as a substitute crop, the military junta tries to cut the price of our rice crop, so what else we could do?" the MTA's liaison officer said.

Both Khernsai and Khwan Mung claimed that if the Thai and foreign governments helped the MTA to liberate the Shan State, it would stop growing opium.

Khernsai suggested that the Thai Government apply the same policy as it did with the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] with the Shan State in order to suppress the opium cultivation. The CPT was given amnesty in the early 80s which effectively drained the party of most of its members.

"Why cannot this policy be effectively applied to the Shan State as it was by the Thai Government where the communists were concerned?" Khernsai said.

Khernsai also cited the United Wa State Army [UWSA] siding with the military junta to fight his group as hampering efforts to improve the people living standards.

The military junta is currently financing and providing logistics to the heavily armed Wa seeking to capture Khun Sa's strongholds in the eastern front of the Shan State.

However, Khernsai believed that the Wa would eventually return to their fold to join in the fight to free the Shan State from the junta.

"We do not think that Wa is our permanent foe and we still regard them as our brothers," he said.

Khernsai said the military junta was using the Wa to fight his group in order to weaken both rival forces until they no longer posed a threat to the government.

He believed with the democratization process inside Burma coming to a halt, the Wa and other ethnic minorities were driven into joining the military junta, hoping that it would help them.

However, the alliance was based on convenience and for temporary benefits, said Khernsai who believed that those armed ethnic minorities would eventually distance themselves from the junta when they realize they will not get the freedom that they want.

Khernsai said MTA had tried many times but to no avail to negotiate with the Wa on joining in the liberation efforts and to explain to them that the Burmese Government was trying to sow the seeds of rivalry between the two groups in order to undermine the liberation of the Shan State.

"We had so far send six letters to the Wa but only one reached them and our negotiator was killed on the way to meet them," he said.

The fighting between MTA and UWSA flared up in 1989. About 2,000 troops of the Wa were reported killed, while the casualties on the MTA side was estimated at 7-800, according to Khernsai who claimed that all the battles were started by the Wa.

Khernsai said both sides had engaged several times but only five which took place in the areas straddling Mae Ai District, Mae Chaem, Chiang Dao districts in Chiang Mai Province caused severe damage to the Thai side.

He also claimed that the Thai military helped the Wa to fight the MTA.

He said in a recent battle in Mae Ai district, Wa forces would not have been able to attack MTA's bases, if the Thai military had prevented them from passing through their camp on the Thai border opposite the MTA's bases in Doi Laktaeng and Doi Laem.

Khernsai also claimed that the damage on Thai side from the spillover of fighting between Wa and MTA should be blamed on the Wa, the Burmese military and the Thai Army not the MTA.

The Third Army Region last month launched intensive attacks on Khun Sa's hide-outs on the two hills in what was officially described as retaliation for the deaths and injuries caused by stray mortar shells supposedly fired by Khun Sa's troops.

Khernsai also denied the Thai military allegation that Thai loggers who won concessions from the military junta had colluded with Khun Sa in depleting the Thai forest on the border saying the group only allowed logging in the Shan state.

He said MTA did not want to destroy the natural resource but logging was allowed out of consideration for the good relations with Thailand not with the Burmese Government.

He also accepted that his group collected protection money from Thai loggers granted concession MTA's areas of control in Shan State, saying it was a tradition for those businessmen to seek approval from influential groups in logging areas.

Cooperation To Stem Flow of Opium From Laos, Burma

BK1104112891 Hong Kong AFP in English 2231 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 10 (AFP)—Bangkok and Beijing are cooperating to stem the flow of illicit opium and heroin from Burma and Laos, a senior Thai anti-narcotics official said Wednesday.

Chawalit Yotmani, head of Thailand's Narcotics Control Board, said Chinese law enforcement and agriculture officials had been here recently to consult with their Thai counterparts on drug trafficking suppression measures.

"Lately China has been affected by the production of opiates and a lot of heroin has gone through that country to Hong Kong," he said, adding that large seizures in the past few years had worried Chinese authorities.

Burma and Laos, the biggest producers of illicit drugs in the golden triangle region that also includes Thailand, are believed to have increased cultivation of opium, the raw ingredient of heroin, over the past few years, he said.

"We're concerned that more and more drugs could come through Thailand," he added.

Thailand, which has reduced its contribution to the world's black market heroin supply through suppression measures and programs to substitute opium cultivation for legal cash crops, has also offered narcotics suppression training and some technical assistance to Burma and Laos, he said.

"In the region of the golden triangle there has been some progress with the three countries talking together in order to reduce the supply of opiates," he said.

Satellite photographs indicate however that Thailand still has an estimated 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) of opium poppy fields, he said.

Thai Air Force Reportedly Bombed Drug Bases in Burma

BK1104133691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 11 Apr 91

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Chiang Mai, Thailand, May 11 (AFP)—Thai fighter planes have launched secret air strikes against

drug factories inside Burma under the control of drug kingpin Khun Sa, senior military officers said here on Thursday. They added that the attacks were carried out without consultation with the military junta in Rangoon.

The raids, made over a week ago by planes from the Thai Royal Air Force 41st Wing based near the border, are the first ever launched by the Thais against the Sino-Burmese drug warlord.

According to sources the Thai decision to attack the world's biggest heroin trafficker was made after heavy pressure from U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agents based in the country and determined to crush the man they have dubbed the "prince of death."

Major General Phonprasoet Chulasawek, head of Task Force 327 which patrols the area of the Thai-Burmese border used by the drug runners admitted that undercover American drug squad agents had pinpointed the heroin refineries.

"We also had information from our own agents," he added.

The attacked bases, where millions of dollars worth of heroin is turned out to be shipped and then sold to addicts on the streets of major American and European cities, are several kilometers (miles) inside Burma.

Thai officials say they are still awaiting intelligence reports to see how successful the attacks were.

"Once we get the intelligence reports we will be able to assess the full extent of the damage we have inflicted," said Maj. Gen. Phonprasoet. He added that further strikes were planned but a major problem was posed by the fact that many of the refineries were mobile factories and their sites frequently changed.

The opportunity to carry out the attacks came when heavy fighting between rebels from the Wa, an ethnic minority in Burma, and Khun Sa soldiers, over control of the drug routes spilled into Thailand. Two Thais were killed and several others injured when a stray mortar landed in the Thai border town of Tha Ton last month.

The Thai military immediately began bombing and shelling the two sides to force them away from the border.

"We decided it was a perfect moment to attack the refineries," said Maj. Gen. Phonprasoet.

"This opens up all sorts of new possibilities in the fight to try and put an end to Khun Sa," said one observer. But both the observers and the Thai military admit it will take more than a series of attacks against the heroin processing factories to halt the "prince of death."

"Khun Sa will still be there in a year or longer but such attacks can at least disrupt his trade," said one observer.

The 56-year-old Khun Sa, who has been in the heroin business for 25 years, is responsible for supplying 70

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percent of all the world's heroin. Indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges, the chain-smoking Khun Sa has repeatedly vowed that he will never be taken.

His profit from drugs is estimated to be between 80 and 100 million dollars a year and caravans loaded with heroin are expected to be arriving at the border within the next few weeks.

BURMA

Leader Rejects Allegations of Lucrative Drug Trade

91WD0572A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
20 Feb 91 p.A5

[Article by Yindee Lertcharoenchok]

[Text] Kachin State, one of the two poppy growing areas in northern Burma, is expected to harvest about 27.2 tones [as published] of raw opium for the 1990-91 season.

The figure was provided by Brang Seng, the leader of an armed ethnic Kachin resistance group, who during a recent interview with *THE NATION*, strongly rejected Western allegations that his organization has supported or was involved in the lucrative drug trade.

Brang Seng, chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) which is allied to 20 other anti-government dissident movements in the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), estimated that 27.2 tones of opium will be produced this year, a slight increase over the 1989-90 figure of 21.68 tones.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Burma is expected to produce about 1,700 tones of opium in the 1990-91 harvest, an increase of 1,500 tones compared to the previous year. While Rangoon has rejected all these figures, it however, cannot provide its own estimate, saying the rugged mountainous terrain is inaccessible to Burmese authorities, and that the people are smart enough to grow the plant in small plots of land merging with other crops.

For the 1990-91 harvest season, the eastern division of the Kachin State is expected to produce 6,000 vis (Burmese measurement) of opium (9,600 kgs), the Sadon special township area near the Chinese border about 3,000 vis (4,800 kgs) and the southern division in northern Shan State about 8,000 vis (12,800 kgs).

The figures are calculated based on KIO's initial surveys and the prediction of good climate with no rainfall before the harvest, between March and April, he said. The 60-year-old leader, who was once denied an entry visa by the United States allegedly for his involvement in drug trade, maintained that the opium poppy cultivation was carried out by displaced villagers, who use the drug

as traditional herbal medicine and as well as dope for their beasts of burden such as mules and elephants.

The KIO had no policy to thrive economically on the narcotics business nor supported the cultivation of the poppy. Instead, it has since 1964 implemented a programme to eradicate opium cultivation and drug addicts from Kachin State, which has cleared western and northern parts of poppy plantation, he claimed.

"It is totally untrue that I or the KIO deal in drugs. In fact we have introduced a programme to eradicate opium since 1964," he said.

"Since then, the cultivation of poppy in northern and western Kachin land has ceased totally," he claimed, adding that currently only three areas in eastern and southern parts of the state still cultivate poppy fields.

He estimated that only "about 2,000 villagers, mainly Chinese or other ethnic nationals," are still involved in the poppy growing in three remote jungle highlands as a result of being "driven out of their own farmlands in lowland Kachin by Burmese troops."

The KIO claimed it has tried to discourage the growing of poppy and has imposed heavy taxations on opium growers as well traders. Moreover, unless the villagers obtained a permit, they are not allowed to grow the plant, according to Brang Seng.

"Unless they get a permit, they will be heavily fined. And this is how we get detailed reports," on how many persons are involved and how many "lalam (Kachin measurement: 1 lalam equals 2 yards)" are under poppy cultivation, he said.

At least three kinds of taxation are imposed on villagers—land permission, land clearing and harvesting taxes, he said.

He also claimed that there are no heroin laboratories in Kachin State, which covers an area of 48,038 sq miles with a population of about 2.5 million and that the raw opium is normally purchased and transported down to the Kokang and Wa areas in the Shan State where it is transformed into heroin at the refineries in the area.

The Kachin leader, meanwhile, expressed his concern over the rapid increase in the number of young opium addicts in Kachin State. "Year by year we find that more and more youngsters are getting addicted to the drug... In the last three years hundreds of them arrived at our camp to undergo rehabilitation," he said.

He claimed that all opium poppy fields in Kachin State would be wiped out within three years if the civil war in Burma ended and when genuine peace returned to the country.

Antidrug Squad Seizes 5 Kg of Heroin, Raw Opium

91WD0572D Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 21 Feb 91 p 11

[Text] Yangon, 21 Feb—Members of Katha special anti-drug squad, acting on a tip-off, searched the farm in U Tin Aung's house compound in Ngarluton Village, Kontha Village-tract, Katha Township, on 1 February night and seized 5.783 kilos of heroin kept in three knapsacks and 1.55 kilos of raw opium in a paper bag at the farm.

Katha PPF [expansion not given] Station has taken action against six persons involved in the case under Sections 6-a(b), 7-a(b), 10(b), 11 and 14(d) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

The six are Toke Phyu (a) Thein Aung, son of U Ba Nyein, of Myoma Ward, Banmauk; Tha Htoo (a) Maung Myint, son of U Pyay Baw, of Kya-inn Village, Kawlin Township; Win Nyunt, son of U Tun maung, of Myoma Ward, Banmauk; Marosham, son of U Zau Maing, of Kawng Kup Village, Namkham township; Maung Sai, son of U Ai Kwe, of Mang Ngai Village, Mansi Township; and Kyi Aung, son of U Khway Maung, of Ngarluton Village, Katha Township. MNA

Multiplier Course on Treatment of Drug Addicts Begins

91WD0572B Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 21 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Yangon, 20 Feb. The multiplier course on giving treatment to drug addicts was opened at the Hospital for Treatment of Drug Addicts in Myitkyina on 18 February.

Present on the opening ceremony were Kachin State LORC Member U Pint Ko, Kachin State Health Department Head Dr Saw Tha Wah, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for treatment of Drug Addicts Dr Ba Thaung and health service personnel from 18 townships in Kachin State. MNA

Police Raid Yields 4 Kg of Marijuana

91WD0572C Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Feb 91 p 11

[Text] Yangon, 24 Feb—Members of the Thingangyunn People's Police Force [PPF], acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Hla Thaung, 47, son of U Pwa of No Ma/158, 9th Street, Bawa Myint Ward, Ngamoeyeik, Thingangyunn Township on 12 February morning. The police seized 4.4293 kilos of marijuana from the teak trunk and knapsacks belonging to Thein Aung, 38, son of U Pan Shwe of No Ma 38 (Ka), Bawa Myint Ward Thingangyunn Township. Thingangyunn PPF Station has taken action against them under Section 6-a(b), 7-a(b), 11, 14(d) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. MNA

MALAYSIA**Authorities Seize Marijuana Hidden in Fruit**

91WD0581A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 25 Feb 91 p 4

[Report by Ramli Ismail]

[Text] Padang Besar, 24 Feb—The Customs Office here has discovered a new tactic for smuggling drugs from Thailand, namely hiding them in fruit.

The new tactic was discovered this morning when 2,860 grams of marijuana were found hidden in fruit.

Dried marijuana leaves were found stuffed into a watermelon, four papayas, and five labus [squash-like fruit]. The insides of the fruits had been discarded.

The fruits had been cut open and their insides thrown away. The fruit were then stuck back together, making them hard to detect without close scrutiny.

State Customs Director Zam Zam Abdul Rahman announced today that at 0940 this morning a customs team from the Padang Besar Produce Division led by Customs Superintendent Fozian Ismail inspected an air conditioned second-class car traveling from Bangkok to Butterworth when it arrived at the railway station here.

During the inspection, the customs officers found plastic bags containing a watermelon, four papayas, and five labus.

No one claimed to be the owner of the bags. State Customs Director Zam Zam said that on further inspection the customs officers found signs that the fruit had been cut open. They then opened all of them and found that they contained dried leaves believed to be marijuana.

Further investigation is being conducted. Customs authorities believe this new tactic for smuggling drugs from Thailand into Malaysia is in reaction to the tight control authorities maintain at the border.

This is the year's first success in seizing drugs smuggled into Malaysia, and it is believed to be the first time that smuggled drugs have been discovered in fruit in Malaysia.

Police Seize Raw Opium Believed Smuggled From Thailand

91WD0620A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 12 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Kangar, 11 Mar—On Friday [8 March] in the area around the security fence control tower near Ladang Tebu Chuping, Perlis police found 23.9 kilograms of raw opium believed to have been smuggled into the country.

Assistant Commissioner Haji Maizan Shaari, chief of State Police, said the opium was found at 2045 hours b.

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a team from the Forest Police Force (PPH) Third Battalion, which had maintained surveillance of the area.

He said the team heard the noise of fence wire being cut and upon investigation found a person trying to cross the road, probably intending to escape into Thailand.

"Although the police team fired a warning shot, the person kept running," he told a press conference here today.

He said that when the police examined the area, they found a blue bag containing three men's shirts, a rubber sandal, and 12 black packages believed to contain raw opium.

He said that police are continuing their investigation but that no arrests have been made.

Haji Maizan believes the raw opium was smuggled from Thailand.

He also said police arrested three men on 14 February and seized an automatic pistol believed to have been used in several robberies.

He said that with the arrest of the three men the State Police believe that several armed robbery cases in Perlis and Kedah can now be resolved.

He said the three men were arrested by a team of police from the Kangar District Criminal Branch at about 0230 hours while the men were traveling in a vehicle at Kampung Bakau, near here.

"The men, whose ages ranged from 24 to 30, were believed to be natives of North Kedah and Perlis.

"Police found a Spanish-made automatic pistol," he said.

Education Director Describes Drug-Prevention Programs

91WD0581B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 25 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] Pulau Pinang, 24 Feb—Director of Education Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Arshad said that almost 17 million ringgit have been spent in the last 7 years to train counseling teachers in an effort to prevent drug abuse in schools.

He said that 500 to 600 teachers have attended advanced diploma counseling courses lasting from 6 months to a year at the Malaysian National University (UKM) or have received full diplomas from the Malaysian Agricultural University (UPM).

He said that as another preventive step students are being given courses on drugs and their dangers.

"Students sometimes take drugs because of the pressure of studies and examinations and sometimes because of the influence of friends," he told reporters here this

morning after inaugurating Humanity and Welfare Week at the Malaysian Science University (USM).

Tan Sri Abdul Rahman said that, in addition, there are peer-group meetings in which influential students supervise 10 to 20 of their fellow students in writing compositions and conducting antidrug activities.

He said these meetings, which begin in form 1, have been held for the last five years. He added that drug prevention programs began in the schools 10 years ago.

"So far, less than 10 students have been sent to treatment centers. Some were reported to police by schools, but there were other cases in which the students' own parents reported their children to the police," he continued.

The director of education said drug abuse can occur outside school because students have time, money, and companions; and sometimes conditions outside school encourage them to use drugs.

"Another reason is that the community pays no attention. Parents always blame other people when their own children use drugs, but when parents find other people's children using drugs they do not care," he said.

Tan Sri Abdul Rahman said that there are also parents who encourage their children to smoke cigarettes to prevent them from using drugs. He said he has seen for himself a father ask his child for a cigarette.

Tan Sri Abdul Rahman said he does not deny that drug abuse occurs among university students but believes fewer are involved since they are busy with their studies.

The director of education said that although the number of students involved in drug abuse is small compared with the total 3.5 million students, the national education system needs to find a way to overcome it because drug abuse is bad.

Speaking earlier to inaugurate Humanity and Welfare Week, Tan Sri Abdul Rahman urged students not to stop their education, calling it the key to personal and national success.

PHILIPPINES

Drug Syndicates Use Police Car To Transport Drugs

91WD0592A Cebu City SUN STAR in English
4 Mar 91 p 14

[Text] Manila (PNA)—A top police officer yesterday charged that a highly-organized drug syndicate operating in Metro Manila and other key cities have become bolder by using police mobile assets in moving prohibited drugs to their buyers.

Col Job A. Mayo, Philippine National Police (PNP) Narcotics Command chief, said members of the drug syndicates in the police and military service have been

operating undetected using government assets in transporting methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as "shabu" to drug dealers.

Earlier, Narcom operatives pointed to police cars as the ones being used by drug lords in moving in and out shabu. They later released a list of names of 88 police and military officers as alleged protectors of drug lords.

"We are not pointing to a particular mobile unit but records show that police cars in the four police districts have been used by the syndicate without their knowledge," Mayo disclosed to newsmen.

Fifteen police and military officers all assigned in Metro Manila have been pointed to by the intelligence community as responsible for the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country.

Meanwhile, Manila Police Chief Brig Gen Ernesto Diokno challenged the Narcom to come up with the list of suspected policemen so as not to make all personnel in the mobile units of the police suspects.

Resigned Manila Police Capt Reynaldo Jaylo is set to testify tomorrow before the senate vowing to release the names of former constabulary generals allegedly extending protection to big-time drug lords.

Jaylo was the leader of the NBI team that killed in an alleged shootout former NOLCOM Deputy Commander Col Rolando de Guzman and his two companions during a reported drug buy-bust operation in Makati last year.

Also last week, top ranking officers of the PNP preempted Jaylo's move by naming at least six former Constabulary generals as those that the former police officer will name.

THAILAND

Finishing Touches Being Put on Tough Antidrug Laws

BK1204053391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The drafts of two key bills to crack down on drug trafficking will be submitted to the Government within two weeks, chief of the narcotics Control Board Pol [Police] Lt-Gen Chawalit Yotmani said.

The proposed legislation includes seizing assets of drug traffickers and compulsory rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The bills passed through the first readings in Parliament last June.

But with the Parliament now dissolved, "we had to start from square one again," said Pol Lt-Gen Chawalit.

But he hoped the passage of these two important pieces of legislation would be quick this time.

The bills will empower authorities to seize traffickers' assets and keep addicts in rehabilitation centres until they are cured.

During the debate in June, MPs [members of parliament] from both benches of the House unanimously voted in favour of the bills.

Pol Lt-Gen Chawalit said drafts would be in the hands of legal expert Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan within two weeks.

After that they would be forwarded for Cabinet approval, then to the National Legislative Assembly.

Among the measures contained in the bills are:

- All unexplained assets and money in the bank, going back two years before the arrest, will be frozen and seized if someone is convicted of drug trafficking.
- All equipment, assets or vehicles used in the production or trafficking of drugs would be immediately seized.
- All seized assets will go to the state and be used for setting up a fund for the suppression of drug trafficking.
- A special committee headed by the Counter Corruption Commission Chairman and staffed by the senior juridical and other relevant officials will be set up to rule over the seizure of any unexplained assets belonging to alleged traffickers.
- A conspiracy clause empowering authorities to arrest anyone who conspires or plans to trade in narcotics as well as to seize their property and assets.

"The present government is very serious about this issue, especially Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin, our former police chief," he said.

The anti-narcotics authority chief emphasised that the passage of these bills is crucial to effectively suppress activities and will enable authorities to penalise the "big fish" instead of couriers and traffickers.

Touching on the situation in the Golden Triangle, Pol Lt-Gen Chawalit said Burma, Laos and China have recently been engaged in talks about cooperation to reduce opiate supplies and trafficking in the region.

Recently public security and agricultural officials from China visited Thailand for talks on law enforcement and crop substitution activities.

"Lately China has also been affected by opiate production, and China has become a new transit centre of drugs to Hong Kong. Until 1991, 500 kilogrammes of products were seized through China, and China is quite worried," he said.

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Intercepting drug supplies along the vast stretch of border in the Golden Triangle region and China posed an "impossible task."

On Thai-Burmese cooperation, Pol Lt-Gen Chawalit said Thailand offered assistance for the use of satellite photographic devices to verify poppy fields at a recent round on anti-narcotics cooperation talks between Thai and Burmese officials in Chiang Mai.

The Burmese did not respond to the offer.

They said it was beyond their mandate for that particular round of talks but the message would be conveyed to Rangoon.

Nigerians Arrested With 6.5 Kg Heroin

BK1004155091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Two Nigerians, (Chamois Onnuk Keroby) and (Chicosia Ogafo), were arrested at the Phayathai District Police Station with 18 bars of heroin weighing about 6.5 kg and worth about 650,000 baht. The heroin was hidden in four speaker boxes to be transported abroad. The two suspects hired the (Turbo) Express Company to handle transportation. The two suspects confessed after interrogation by police.

Customs Arrest 3 Africans With 18 Kg Heroin

BK1004030791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Customs officials at Don Muang Airport last night arrested three Africans on charges of possessing 18 kilograms of first grade heroin and trying to smuggle it out of the country. The heroin was hidden inside specially-designed clothes hangers and pump machines, officials said.

Border Police Capture Heroin Factory Near Chiang Rai

BK0804020391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Chiang Rai—Border Patrol Police [BPP] yesterday captured a heroin production plant and seized a large quantity of heroin, chemicals and drug-production equipment following a clash in a mountainous area of Mae Suai District.

Acting on intelligence reports, a 30-man BPP team led by Pol Capt Kanthawat Thaicharoen was despatched to the area on Saturday night.

The unit raided the plant near Ban Laowu in Tambon Wawi about 6 a.m. yesterday and met heavy resistance from a group of men guarding the plant.

The armed men fled into the jungle after a 30-minute firefight. No casualties were reported.

The police found 39 boxes of heroin, about 50 litres of ether, two 2.5-litre bottles of the heroin-producing chemical acetic anhydride, two cans of alcohol, and a can of kerosene.

Four Italian Nationals Arrested With 3 Kg of Heroin

BK0904020391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Chiang Mai—Four Italians, including a woman, were arrested in this northern town allegedly in possession of three kilograms of heroin yesterday.

Giubilio Marco, 30, Anne Bilio Daniel, 27, Gaglioli Paolo, 28, and Romano Galileo, 30, were arrested at different spots in the town by teams of Border Patrol Police.

Police said they were acting on information received by the Northern Narcotics Suppression Centre.

Man Arrested Near Chiang Mai With 2 Kg of Heroin

BK0904020591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Chiang Mai—Chiang Mai police yesterday arrested a man on a charge of possessing 2 kilograms of heroin and attempting to smuggle the drug to Chiang Mai, a police said.

Acting on a tip-off, police stopped a speeding pick-up truck at a police checkpoint in Wiang Haeng subdistrict here and found the heroin concealed at the back of the driver's seat. The drug was estimated to be worth about Bt[baht]360,000.

The driver, identified as Thoetphong Thawiphiradidilok, 38, admitted that he bought heroin from an ethnic Hor and intend to smuggle the drug to Chiang Mai. Police yesterday refused to release on bail two Canadians and a Briton who were arrested recently for allegedly possessing 4.5 kgs of heroin, estimated to be worth Bt200,000, in Chiang Mai Province.

Bangkok Marijuana Dealer Arrested

Daily Sales Amounts Noted

91WD0582A Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 10 Feb 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Transvestite Arrested as Marijuana Agent"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At 1030 hours on 9 February Police Lieutenant Colonel Phanurat Miphian, Chief Inspector of the Bangkok Police Station, and Police Major Wirasak Minawanit, an inspector at the Bangkok Police station, together with their group searched house No. 235 next to Klong Bangbua Canal on Waiyapricha

Lane, Phahonyothin Road, Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok. They had learned that this house was used in smuggling marijuana.

The search of the house uncovered blocks of marijuana packed in 38 plastic bags and six cardboard boxes weighing a total of 39 kg and valued at about 50,000 baht. They also found a necklace, two counterfeit gold bracelets and two plastic guns. The police officials arrested Mr. Lek Sukchai, 40, the owner of the house and a sao praphet song [transvestite]. They took him to the police station for questioning.

Mr. Lek confessed that he had purchased the marijuana for 1,000 baht per kg and would have sold it to regular customers for 1,500 to 2,000 baht per kg. He sold about 40 kg per day. He had been selling it for almost a year. A dealer sent him the marijuana by boat on the Khlong Bangbua Canal.

Agent's Delivery Process

91WD0582B Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
10 Feb 91 pp 1, 10

[Unattributed report: "Transvestite Arrested"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On being questioned, Mr. Lek Sukchai, 40, the owner of the house, who dressed as a woman, said that the marijuana belonged to Mrs. Paeo, last name not known, a big marijuana dealer who provided funding for all the marijuana coming from Nakhon Phanom Province. It was priced at 1,000 baht per kg. After it arrived at the warehouse in Bangkok it was split up and sent to customers. An agent brought his marijuana by boat on the Khlong Bangbua Canal, and he split it up and sold it in small packages. Police officials detained him for trial later on. Officials of many drug suppression units had been searching for Mrs. Paeo, the big dealer, and Mr. Lek for some time. Mrs. Paeo was still at large.

Addict Profiled, Daily Use Rate Noted

91WD0585A Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 4-6 Feb 91
p 13

["Narcotics Suppression" Column by Nit Bangmot]

[4 Feb p 13]

[Text] "The Light of Life"

Dear Mr. Nit Bangmot, I respect you for your column about narcotics suppression in THAI RAT, which has provided information about drugs for those who did not know the punishment drugs inflict and which has shown a way for those possessed by this evil spirit in body and soul to be free of its enslavement.

I grew up on the salt water in Samut Songkhram Province. Starting when I was small my parents sent me to school. I completed my third year of secondary school in my home town and then went to Bangkok for the fourth

and fifth years of secondary school, which I completed. But my entrance into [the next grade] did not follow because I was at an age when I was not interested in studying as much as I should and liked to hang out. I began to smoke cigarettes and marijuana at that time - I was about 19. I did not want to study further anywhere. If I had passed the entrance exam for further study, I probably would not have finished because I went out with my friends constantly. And if I had gone on with my studies, my parents would have used up their money for nothing. So I returned to my home in the countryside, but I did not work because ever since I had been young I had just studied and then when I was no longer studying, I did not know what to do.

At home I went out to gamble and drink with older friends. The market where I often went to drink had both marijuana and opium for sale. I could smoke there if I wanted. At first I smoked marijuana heavily. Then I began to smoke opium, but I was still not addicted because some days I would drink alcohol and smoke marijuana or if I did not smoke marijuana, I would smoke opium. But I usually drank alcohol every day. In any case I was not addicted to anything when I reached the age to enter the priesthood and my parents asked me to become a priest for them for one year.

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[Text] After leaving the priesthood, I returned to be with my old friends. But these friends were not drinking alcohol any more - they were generally smoking opium. So I switched to just smoking opium because I did not realize what it would be like if I became addicted and had nothing to smoke. I thought it would be similar to drinking alcohol - you could drink or not drink as you wanted. I did not realize what the torment could be like and so I smoked it regularly. Then one day I played cards late, and when the time came when I usually smoked opium, I felt pain and fatigue throughout my body. I yawned and tears came. I rushed to where I usually smoked opium. After I had smoked three kham, the various symptoms went away. I began to realize that I was addicted to opium. Then friends invited me to go to gamble in distant provinces. If I had taken along all the paraphernalia for smoking opium, such as the opium pipe, the bowl of the pipe, the lamp, the stand for the lamp, the cover for the lamp, coconut oil, and a sharp piece of metal for pounding the opium and sugar palm leaf, on a long trip and had moved about often, it would have been very difficult and would have violated the law. If I had made a mistake and been arrested, I would have been jailed along with everyone accompanying me. So I switched from smoking opium to kkep (a type of heroin in purple grains), which was easy to carry. The paraphernalia and places to smoke were easy to find. There was no big initial step as in smoking opium. For smoking kkep, one used the tinfoil from a pack of cigarettes to make a funnel and used the cigarette pack to make a tube for smoking. After that I smoked kkep continuously by paying friends to purchase large quantities and then distributing it in small quantities.

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[Text] I used the drugs without having to pay. That lasted up until my father died. Then kkep became difficult to buy, and my friends brought heroin powder to smoke instead. At first when I used it in cigarette form, I did not feel intoxicated. I had to smoke three to five cigarettes to have enough, and it would not last more than three to four hours. Then I would have to smoke more. This was heavy consumption because I was using two bik per day. So I switched to smoking it like kkep; I used much less than in cigarette form - at first one bik would last three to four days.

During this time I did not travel to other provinces because my brothers and sisters had all left the family leaving my mother, who was very old, home alone. Because of my concern for my mother I returned home

to sleep every night. I could not go on trips far from home. Then my drug consumption increased to about one bik every two days, and more people came to know that I was a drug addict. I became shy, stopped taking trips, and stayed home. I kept on taking drugs and did not consider stopping because I thought about the time I had gone without opium. The torment for me had been great even though I had not be smoking opium long at that time. I did not realize how much greater the torment would be after smoking for more than 15 years. I smoked heroin until I was 42. After I had been addicted to drugs for more than 21 years, I considered quitting. In addition the police were suppressing drugs a great deal, and I was afraid of being arrested. I also felt sorry for my mother who was very old, about 80. I had never done anything to make her proud or happy.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Meeting Criticizes U.S. Antidrug Policy in Andes

PY0604171291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0116 GMT
6 Apr 91

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (EFE)—According to a document that was released on 5 April at the conclusion of an international meeting on drugs, the United States must give a "clear-cut guarantee" that it will not intervene militarily in the Andean countries that produce coca.

The document adds that the United States favors participation of the Andean armed forces in the antidrug fight with the argument of "alleged corruption in the police forces," especially in Peru and Bolivia, where 90 percent of the production of the world's coca, from which cocaine is produced, is concentrated.

According to the document, militarization of the antidrug fight goes hand in hand with "political and diplomatic pressure" by the United States that "appears to undermine the sovereignty" of the Andean countries.

U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics Matters Melvyn Levitsky offered his country's military aid to Andean countries that want it, but noted that the police forces "are better trained" to repress drug trafficking. He said this during a teleconference that opened the antidrug meeting in Lima.

The Bolivian Government has decided to use two Army battalions in the antidrug fight and has accepted the presence of 112 U.S. instructors in its country.

An agreement that is being negotiated between Peru and the United States provides for the direct involvement of the Peruvian Armed Forces in the antidrug fight, but the extent of this involvement is not yet known because the agreement annexes have not been made public. The document adds that this agreement will provoke "serious risks" for Peru due to military involvement in the drug fight within a scenario of internal war, a direct reference to the guerrilla insurgency that has been going on for 11 years in this country, and due to the possibility that the peasant coca growers "will be the victims of military operations."

An Andean Antidrug Services spokesman has stated that the U.S. Government is forcing the participation of the region's military in the antidrug fight after the euphoria of victory in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The document states that "serious charges of corruption against authorities" and "criticism of inadequate management" of the antidrug policy have led to a "very serious political crisis," and have coincided with the Bolivian Government's decision to involve the Army in the antidrug fight against very strong opposition.

Participating in the conference, which is sponsored by the Andean Commission of Legal Experts (CAJ), were 200 representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, the

United States, and the EC, but the final declaration does not necessarily express the opinion of all the participants, according to the organizers.

The declaration maintains that the United States "clearly conditions" economic aid to the "prior signing of military aid agreements that none of the Andean countries have requested."

"The incursion of the Andean military in such a complex field as drug trafficking envisages serious threats of corruption for the military apparatus," the document adds.

The declaration released by the CAJ states that the United States has given priority to the military aspect of the antidrug fight to the detriment of the Cartagena Declaration, the agreement that the United States, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru signed in February 1990. After many years in which priority was given to interdiction and repression, the chiefs of state of those countries acknowledged in Cartagena the convenience of economic, financial, trade, and social actions in the antidrug fight.

Rio Group on Drug Trafficking, Debt Problems

PA0704161191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2003 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Bogota, 4 Apr (EFE)—The Group of Rio foreign ministers said today that foreign debt and drug-trafficking problems have different effects on Latin American countries and, therefore, they need to be treated differently.

Both problems were discussed during the foreign ministers meeting in Bogota, but they were discussed separately and the affected countries received only support from the group.

Colombian Foreign Relations Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo explained today at a news conference that the debt problem "cannot be treated collectively" because it is different in every country and affects each country differently.

The ministers from Chile, Enrique Silva; Peru, Carlos Torres y Torres Lara; and Venezuela, Reinaldo Figueredo; also took part in the news conference. [passage omitted]

Jaramillo stressed that the same thing occurs with drug-trafficking problems. Every country is affected differently, because in some countries the "effect is negligible," and in others, such as in Colombia, it is a priority problem.

The struggle against drug trafficking must be treated on the regional or bilateral level, such as in the case of the four affected Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru), which have requested specific aid.

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The foreign minister explained, however, that drug problems are universal and that there will never be success if the efforts of all countries are not coordinated, especially in Europe, where there has been a noticeable increase in drug consumption.

Jaramillo criticized the European authorities for not taking a definite stand on controlling drug consumption, adding that "it seems as if they are not interested or not taking it seriously."

Honduran-Venezuelan Drug Legislation Published

91WD0575A Tegucigalpa LA GACETA in Spanish
2 Nov 90 pp 1-2

[Text]

Contents

Decree Number 83-90, August 1990

Notices**Legislative Branch**

The National Congress,

Decrees:

Article I. Approval, in each and every one of its parts, of Accord No. 2-DTTL-90, dated 25 June 1990, issued by the Honorable Constitutional President of the Republic, and containing the "Accord Between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela on Prevention and Control of Consumption and Repression of the Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," signed on 10 May 1990 in the city of Tegucigalpa, Central District, which states, verbatim:

"Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, D.C. 25 June 1990. Accord No. 2-DTTL-90. The Constitutional President of the Republic of Honduras Resolves:

To approve in each and every one of its parts the 'Accord Between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela on Prevention and Control of the Consumption, and Repression of the Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,' signed on 10 May 1990 in the city of Tegucigalpa, Central District, the text of which is the following: Accord Between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela on Prevention and Control of the Consumption, and Repression of the Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela, hereinafter called the Contracting Parties, aware that the illegal cultivation, production, extraction, processing, conversion, and marketing, as well as the organizing, supplying, and financing of illicit activities relating to drugs and psychotropic substances and their raw materials, tend to undermine their economies and jeopardize the physical

health of their people, to the detriment of their socioeconomic development, also attacking the security of states; observing the commitments that both countries have contracted as Parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, signed in Vienna on 21 February 1971; convinced that both nations should adopt complementary measures to combat all types of crime and associated activities relating to the illicit consumption and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances; considering the feasibility of establishing strict control over the production, distribution, and marketing of raw materials, including precursors and essential chemical products used in the illicit processing and conversion of drugs and psychotropic substances; interested in establishing facilities that will permit direct communication between the authorized agencies in both states, and a constant exchange of information on trafficking and its associated activities; and taking Note of their constitutional, legal, and administrative systems; Resolve:

Article I

The Contracting Parties agree to coordinate the efforts of the authorized national agencies for the prevention of consumption, the repression of trafficking, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, and the control of drugs and psychotropic substances and their raw materials, including precursors and essential chemical products.

Article II

The Contracting Parties will adopt administrative measures to prevent dissemination, publication, publicity, advertising, and printed matter that could foster the trafficking and stimulate the consumption of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Article III

The Contracting Parties will establish systems for direct communication concerning the discovery of vessels, aircraft, and other means of transportation suspected of illicitly transporting drugs and psychotropic substances or their raw materials used in the processing and conversion of those substances. Consequently, the qualified authorities will adopt the measures that they deem necessary, in accordance with each country's internal legislation.

Article IV

The Contracting Parties pledge that they will apprehend and confiscate, in accordance with their legislation, air, land, or sea transport vehicles used in the trafficking, distribution, storage, or carrying of drugs and psychotropic substances, including precursors and essential chemical products used in the manufacture and conversion of those substances, as well as the goods used in such illicit activities.

Article V

The Contracting Parties will adopt administrative measures to: a) Prevent the facilitating, organizing, and financing of activities related to the illicit trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances; b) Prevent and control the purchase, possession, and transfer of goods that are products of the illicit trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances and their raw materials, including precursors and essential chemical products used in the processing and conversion of those substances; and c) Facilitate the location and seizure of said goods, in accordance with each country's internal legislation.

Article VI

The Contracting Parties will provide the agencies responsible for repressing illicit trafficking in air and maritime customs offices with permanent training in the investigation and confiscation of drugs and psychotropic substances and their raw materials, including precursors and essential chemical products. They will likewise render assistance in areas relating to prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Article VII

The Contracting Parties will exchange direct information on: a) Internal status and trend of the consumption and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances; b) Internal standards regulating the organization of drug addict prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services; c) Data relating to the identification of individual or associated traffickers and their methods of operation; d) Authorization for the importing and exporting of raw materials, including precursors and essential chemical products used in the processing and conversion of drugs and psychotropic substances, the volume of those operations, the sources of internal and external supply, and trends and projections of the illicit consumption of such products, so as to identify orders used for illicit purposes; e) Control and surveillance over the distribution and medical prescription of drugs and psychotropic substances; and, f) Scientific advances in the area of drug addiction.

Article VIII

With a view toward attaining the objectives contained in this Accord, the Contracting Parties have decided to create a Joint Committee comprised of representatives of the authorized agencies. The Committee will be coordinated by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries, and will meet on occasions previously agreed upon.

Article IX

The Contracting Parties pledge that they will adopt whatever measures are necessary for the fulfillment of this Accord, including those relating to the negotiation between their respective judicial authorities of letters rogatory associated with court action that may result

from the execution of this Accord. These requirements do not affect the Parties' right to demand that the legal documents be sent to them through diplomatic channels.

Article X

This Accord may be amended by mutual consent between the Contracting Parties, taking their respective legal systems into consideration.

Article XI

1. Each Contracting Party will notify the other of the fulfillment of the respective formalities required for the approval of this Accord, which will go into effect on the date that the respective notification is received.

2. This Accord will be effective for two years, and may be extended automatically for an equal period, unless one of the Contracting Parties gives notice of its termination through diplomatic channels 90 days before the expiration date. Signed in the city of Tegucigalpa, on 10 May 1990, in two copies, both texts being equally authentic. Rafael Leonardo Callejas, President of the Republic of Honduras. Carlos Andres Perez, President of the Republic of Venezuela.

3. This Accord is to be submitted to the Sovereign National Congress for its approval. Let it be known. Rafael Leonardo Callejas, The State Secretary in the Office of Foreign Affairs. Mario Carias Zapata."

Article 2. This Decree will go into effect as of the date of its publication in the official journal, LA GACETA.

Issued in the city of Tegucigalpa, Municipality of the Central District, in the National Congress Hall of Sessions, on 1 August 1990.

Carlos Torres Lopez, President

Marco Augusto Hernandez Espinoza, Secretary

Thelma Iris Lopez de Perez, Secretary

To the Executive Branch.

Therefore: To be executed.

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., 7 August 1990.

Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, President

The State Secretary in the Office of Foreign Affairs, Jaime Guell Bogran

Weekly Roundup on Drug Seizures: 29 Mar-5 Apr

PA0804044091

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to drug trafficking in bureau coverage area from 29 March to 5 April.

Colombia

Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT on 4 Apr announced that the National Police

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Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla disclosed that five farms in Cordoba, where 12 tons of cocaine were seized, belong to the Ochoa brothers of Medellin, both of whom are now in maximum security prisons in Medellin. The authorities say that the farms were registered under the names of Ochoa lieutenants.

Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2315 GMT on 5 Apr reported that the Colombian police seized 128 kg of cocaine paste in an operation in the town of Caicedo, in Antioquia Department, on 5 April. No one was arrested in the operation.

Honduras

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2342 GMT on 4 Apr noted that the authorities seized 44 kg of cocaine from a cargo plane belonging to the Belize Air International company during a normal checking operation in San Pedro Sula. The pilot, a U.S. citizen, the Canadian copilot, and two Guatemalans named Leonardo and Salvador Moran were arrested, while another crew member named Alcides Diaz escaped.

Mexico

Madrid EFE in Spanish 2052 GMT announced on 29 Mar that federal drug authorities in Guadalajara, Jalisco, had arrested Ivan Montoya Franco, 33, a Colombian, for possession of 10 kg of cocaine. The authorities reported that Montoya is a member of a drug network that introduces drugs into Mexico from Colombia via Guatemala.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2151 GMT on 29 Mar reported that the Federal Judicial Police confiscated 6.85 kg of pure heroin, five kg of opium paste, and two vehicles in Uruapan, Michoacan, on 29 March. Epifanio Ocegüera Valencia, 54; Jose Orozco Cabrera, 48; and Antonio Quinonez Fuentes were arrested during the operation.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT on 2 Apr noted that the Federal Highway Police have reported that 20.72 grams of pure heroin and 3.43 kg of opium gum have been seized in Chilapa municipality in the Acapulco area. Taurino Morales, Raul Merino Garcia, Maria Gonzalez Flores, and Maria del Rosario Gonzalez were arrested in the operation.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0010 GMT on 4 Apr announced that the statistics released by the National Defense Secretariat have revealed that Guerrero State has become the main producer of poppies in Mexico. The figures show that 17,000 poppy plants were destroyed in an area of 782 hectares over the past two months. The commander of the 27th Military Zone said that over 13 percent of the state's area is planted with narcotics.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0115 GMT on 5 Apr reported that the Federal Judicial Police seized 9.54 kg of heroine in two operations. On the highway between

Caborca and Altar, in Sonora, police arrested Jose Luis Valencia Carranza, the driver of the truck in which six kg of the drug were found. Later, the authorities discovered 3.54 kg of the drug in an abandoned automobile at Km 185 of the Hermosillo-Nogales Highway.

Panama

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 4 Apr carried an item on page 8A reporting that Panamanian citizen Ricardo Antonio Royo was arrested at Tocumen International Airport on 30 March for possession of seven packages of cocaine, worth some \$100,000, which he was attempting to take to Houston, Texas, inside some sound equipment. Royo was a local businessman.

Venezuela

Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0030 GMT on 2 Apr noted that the National Guard has seized over 40 kg of cocaine in several operations at Maiquetia International Airport. A total of two women and 11 men were arrested in these operations.

Weekly Roundup on Drug Seizures: 7-13 Apr

PY1104211991

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to drug trafficking in the Paraguay bureau coverage area from 7 April to 13 April.

Argentina

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1136 GMT on 3 Apr reported that in an operation at a Buenos Aires hotel on Mayo Avenue, the Federal Police seized 3 kg of cocaine. The drug was found inside a bag wrapped as a gift, addressed to Antonio Vargas. The police failed to detain the two hotel guests: Vargas and a Chilean girl.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1821 GMT on 6 Apr stated that the Federal Police in Salta discovered 3 kg of cocaine hydrochloride hidden among women's lingerie shipped in parcels aboard a train wagon. The operation helped the police to detain a former prisoner, Paraguayan Eliodoro Rivas Lujan, who has already been arrested several times for drugs in Salta. The drug was bound for Spain.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1612 GMT reported on 6 Apr that a dangerous cocaine trafficker was detained and almost 2 kg of cocaine were seized as a result of an investigation carried out by the Federal Police in Buenos Aires. On learning about the imminent arrival of a cocaine hydrochloride shipment from Bolivia, the police managed to infiltrate one agent within the organization of traffickers, and thus managed to arrest Argentine citizen Eduardo Ismael Arriola who was hiding the drug inside his clothes.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1029 GMT on 6 Apr noted that the provincial police managed to seized 1.5 kg of cocaine hydrochloride and detained at least three people in operations in San Salvador de Jujuy. The names of the traffickers have not been released.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT on 8 Apr announced that the Salta Investigations and Dangerous Drugs Police Division arrested a courier and seized 2 kg of cocaine in Salta. The operation was carried out at 800 Urquiza Street, when Luis Betuzzi, a former prisoner who was set free two years ago, was arrested.

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT reported on 9 Apr that in two operations carried out a few days ago at Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires, the police detained a man and a woman who were boarding a plane for Europe, each carrying almost 3 kg of cocaine.

Brazil

Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT noted on 4 Apr that the Federal Police have seized 6 kg of pure cocaine at the Rio de Janeiro International Airport. The drug was to have been taken to Switzerland. Three traffickers were arrested, one of them a former policeman. He is Miguel Joao Duarte, 45, who was dismissed from the police on suspicion of being involved in drug trafficking. The police also arrested Aldo Viana Junior, 25, and Neide Pires de Mello.

Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese on 6 Apr 91 carried an item on page 6 stating that on 4 April, the Federal Police detained Brazilian citizen Celso Luiz Lopez and Bolivian Sergio Lopez Gonzalez carrying 40 kg of pure cocaine.

Chile

Santiago LA TERCERA in Spanish on 4 Apr noted on page 31 that in separate operations, the investigative police and Carabineros officers seized almost 2.5 kg of cocaine. Some women detectives, with the support of their male colleagues, posed as new members of the drug-trafficking world and obtained the necessary evidence to arrest Mario Rendi, 52, and Heriberto Diaz, 42, who confessed to being the main distributors in night clubs and parties. The detectives seized 1.3 kg of cocaine from them. Carabineros officers also detained two Bolivians who were carrying a total of 1,148 grams of cocaine in their stomachs. The Bolivians were identified as Williams Viveros Perez, 28, and Esteban Estremadoiro, 25.

Santiago LA TERCERA in Spanish on 5 Apr reported on page 29 that investigative police agents have seized three tons of marijuana in San Esteban in the Andean mountains in Los Andes. The police also detained Mario Cruz Lepe, Hernan Miranda Torreblanca, Luis Campos Campos, and Luis Osorio Cespedes.

Peru

Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT on 1 Apr announced that two women who attempted to smuggle 2 kg of cocaine hydrochloride out of Peru were arrested at the Jorge Chavez International Airport. The drug was estimated to be worth \$500,000.

Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT on 9 Apr stated that three women were arrested on 3 April carrying 15,310 grams of cocaine base in San Juan de Lurigancho District. At the Corcona road checkpoint the police found 2 kg of cocaine paste inside a supermarket bag aboard a bus of the Transrey Company. The police arrested Evesandro Basurto Sanchez, head of a trafficking gang; a chemist who refines the cocaine; and Victor Quispe Enriquez, alias Victor Chavez Loyola, 39. The police believe that a new international cocaine distribution route has been detected with the arrest of Clara Torrico Castaneda, 27, and Susana Lagos Soriano, 19, at the Jorge Chavez International Airport as they were boarding a plane bound for Spain with an unspecified amount of cocaine.

Weekly Roundup on Drug Seizures: 9-13 Apr

PA1504153291

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to drug trafficking in bureau coverage area from 9 to 13 April.

Colombia

Paris AFP in Spanish 0523 GMT on 10 Apr announced that Colombian narcotics police reported on 9 April that between 16 January and 8 April, they seized 21,541 kg of cocaine and arrested 359 Colombians and seven foreigners on drug-trafficking charges. A narcotics police report indicated that, in addition, the authorities seized 342 kg of basuco, 6,940 kg of cocaine leaves, 69,732 kg of marijuana, and 360 kg of opium. The report indicates that 39 laboratories and 32 clandestine airstrips were destroyed and in addition, the authorities seized 114 firearms, 39 cars, 15 boats, 4 airplanes and large quantities of ammunition, fragmentation grenades, and dynamite.

Panama

Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on 12 Apr carried an item on page 2-A reported that the Special Narcotics Forces of the Technical Judicial Police have reported that they confiscated over 47 kg of cocaine, with a value of \$1.187 million in a total of 22 actions carried out in the first few days of April. The authorities arrested 24 people linked to the sale of narcotics in these operations.

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 13 Apr reported on page 8-A that Sol Maria Castro de Cook, 25, and Salvador Elias Orellano, 24, two Salvadoran citizens, were arrested on 10 April at Panama's Tocumen International Airport for attempting to bring 5 kg of cocaine into the country. The two were on a flight from

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Barranquilla, Colombia. The drugs, which have an estimated value of \$175,000, were concealed in the couples' suitcases.

ARGENTINA

Menem, Duhalde Disagree on Charges Against Secretary

PY0804020291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 7 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem and Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde disagreed on the attitude the government must take in relation to Presidential Audiences Secretary Amira Yoma, who is accused of forming part of a money-laundering organization connected to international drug-traffickers together with her brother Karim, her husband Ibrahim al-Ibrahim and former state official Mario Caserta.

While Duhalde stated that Amira Yoma "should resign or at least ask for a leave of absence until the case is solved," the head of state considered that his sister-in-law "is not guilty of anything until the judge reaches a decision in the case."

In an interview broadcast by ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] state television, Menem said that "neither Amira nor Karim Yoma have anything to do with the investigation" carried out by Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria. The President had previously defended the "honour" of the Yoma family.

For his part, Duhalde recalled a Menem speech two months ago in which the President mentioned as one of his "moral emergency" measures the need for a state official to leave when accused of a severe offence.

In related developments, Servini de Cubria questioned Mario Caserta last night, after which the Justicialist leader remained in custody and incommunicado.

Carlos Canon, Caserta's lawyer, asked for the release of his client. The judge has now 48 hours to decide on the situation of Caserta.

Yesterday Menem commented that "although Caserta is my personal friend and was on the presidential campaign with us, I will do nothing to defend him or influence the decision of the courts."

The head of state pointed out that "the honour of these people is in danger due to the irresponsible statements of a criminal." He disclosed that "both Amira and Karim had asked me not to exercise my influence in their favour in this case."

Meanwhile, the lawyers of Ibrahim visited the judge to hand her a document guaranteeing that their client is in the country and remains at "the disposal of the courts."

Servini de Cubria also received the visit of Emir Yoma, brother of the accused. The contents of their conversation were not disclosed.

In related news, the Federal Police stated that two notorious masterminds of a drug-trafficking gang were arrested in Zurich, Switzerland, following a request transmitted by the Argentine police through Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization].

Chilean citizen Amalia Torres Moreno, 52, and Brazilian Catarino Rodriguez Cardoso could be extradited to Argentina, where they allegedly carried out drug money laundering operations.

Court sources commented that this money-laundering case could be one of the reasons why United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) head William Webster decided to travel to Buenos Aires in May. The US official is scheduled to hold meetings with Argentine authorities.

Finally, Duhalde will stage a press conference on Tuesday [9 April] to explain a drug-combatting scheme to be carried out by the Argentine, Bolivian and Paraguayan police. The three police forces will patrol their border areas to detect and capture drug-smugglers.

Menem on In-laws' Narcotics Problems, Related Issues

PY1304183091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0056 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem decided tonight to keep out of the problems affecting his in-laws, saying that he does not want to make any comments before the court makes a decision. Menem also confirmed his confidence in Vice President Eduardo Duhalde.

Clearly annoyed at times, the chief of state said: "Those problems are still in the hands of the court, and the president of the nation will have no comment on the issue."

Menem confirmed that Amira Yoma "will continue on an indefinite leave of absence" from her duties. Asked about who was responsible for Ibrahim al-Ibrahim's appointment, he did not answer. He did say that when the Syrian colonel was appointed by decree as Customs official at Ezeiza Airport, "nobody (within the government) could have imagined he was mixed up in something," although at this point he also insisted that the court has still not reached a definitive decision regarding his penal responsibility.

Menem also did not want to comment on his son Carlos' harsh criticism of Vice President Duhalde, whom he called a "liar" in a communique released to the media. Menem said: "The problems between my son and Duhalde are their own; I am not going to interfere, and I reiterate that I will not comment about my family in public."

Nevertheless, Menem said that he would "put his hands in the fire" for his son and Duhalde, whom he called a "friend, colleague, and someone I regard highly." Menem added: "What Duhalde may say, or the reaction his comments may cause, have nothing to do with the president of the nation."

However, Menem seemed to openly contradict Duhalde when he emphatically denied the participation of the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking. He stressed: "Whoever says the opposite is completely mistaken." [passage omitted]

Menem, who devoted the first half of his news conference to announcements on the economy and other topics, such as Argentina's participation in a UN peace force in the Persian Gulf, was aware that most of the questions asked by some 50 national and foreign journalists focused on the Yoma case, their relatives, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

"Why don't you ask more important questions," he said more than once, looking obviously annoyed, although he showed a bit of humor when asked whether his son had not disobeyed by calling Duhalde a liar. Menem smiled and answered: "If he has disobeyed, he will go to prison."

Menem refused to answer questions about drug trafficking and defended himself by quoting the U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration]. "It is the DEA, not us, which maintains that the drug trafficking problem is not so serious in Argentina."

He also [words indistinct] the organization by stating that there "is practically no laundering of dollars" in Argentina, but reiterated that there are some laundering centers in Uruguay, the United States, and other European countries, according to the DEA report.

He was asked again about Amira Yoma's situation and Duhalde's request that she resign. He answered: "She is on a leave of absence, and she depends directly on the president of the nation."

In another passage of the repetitive dialogue about the Yoma family and drug trafficking, Menem answered that during his recent trip to Germany "nobody asked me about this because they are more concerned about the Maradona case."

Asked why Ibrahim al-Ibrahim had been arrested and then released, he repeated: "I will not answer those questions. Ask the judges about it." He promptly recalled that his government "has struggled as nobody else against corruption" and asserted that "nobody will go unpunished."

He denied that Amira Yoma's former husband carries a diplomatic passport and then asked a journalist: "Have you seen it?" [passage omitted]

Menem said the government will continue the investigation into the alleged suicide of former Customs Office

Director Rodolfo Echegoyen "to its final consequences." Menem questioned whether the pilot "was referring to his military comrades or to civilian" friends in his posthumous letter in which he regretted the betrayal committed by his political friends.

Once again, near the end of the news conference, a foreign journalist wanted to know about Carlos Menem, Jr. and Vice President Duhalde. "I am not going to speak about that subject, nor will any other government official do so. My family matters are not discussed in public. My son is my son and all I can say is that I would put my hands in the fire for both of them."

Duhalde Comments on Money Laundering in Latin America

PY0904151391 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1506 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (NA)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde today described Latin America as a "paradise for laundering drug money" and noted that there is an "explosive combination" in this area because of the lack of fiscal controls and of the existence of "devastated" economies.

Commenting on reports of his candidacy for governor of Buenos Aires Province on the Justicialist ticket, Duhalde again hesitated and said: "I have not yet made a decision." Regarding reports carried this weekend by several newspapers, he said: "When I was saying no, they were saying yes."

Duhalde spoke today over Radio America during a program hosted by Bernardo Neustadt. He admitted that President Menem "concurred" with the idea of sending Amira Yoma [Menem's sister-in-law and presidential secretary for audiences] away from Government House.

Duhalde, who is acting president during Carlos Menem's absence, added: "If one is suspected of a wrongdoing, one has to step aside until the situation is cleared up."

Duhalde said that these subjects—such as the alleged involvement of Menem's sister-in-law in the laundering of drug money—"affect us" even though Argentina is "the only Latin American country to have created a state secretariat to fight the drug trade—and considerable progress has been made in just one year."

Duhalde added: "The Organization of American States (OAS) regards us as leaders in the struggle against drug addiction. Thus, these accusations are unfair and must be cleared up. The best way to do this is to keep the president isolated or out of these things."

Duhalde said he was not surprised by the recent remarks made in San Carlos de Bariloche by U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman about the laundering of drug money in Argentina "because this business is common in all Latin American countries."

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Addressing Neustadt, Duhalde said: "There is an explosive combination: The economies of our countries have been devastated, the drug traffickers have immense economic power, and there are no effective fiscal controls."

Duhalde added: "When a man turns up with millions of dollars, no one asks him where he got the money from. This is what happens in our country and in the other Latin American countries. Thus, I would say that Latin America is a paradise for money laundering." [passage omitted]

Vice President Duhalde Opens Trilateral Antidrug Meeting

PY1004025891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1502 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde has urged people not to be afraid of drug traffickers "because those who do not have the courage to confront others whom they realize are doing terrible damage to their children do not deserve to call themselves men."

Duhalde said: "Many people tell me that it is dangerous to harp on this issue. There are some businessmen who tell me: 'I send you the check but do not ask me to attend the meetings.' But I tell them that even the most fearful animals like chickens come out to face the aggressors when their chicks are touched."

Duhalde added: "Drug trafficking moves like a hidden enemy, deploying its impressive corrupting power against politicians, policemen, military men, and the media because the closer it is to power, the more easily it functions."

Duhalde made these remarks this morning upon opening the first trilateral meeting of forces operating against illegal drug trafficking. The meeting is attended by representatives of the government and security organizations of Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

In the opening speech Duhalde said: "We have to take joint measures to confront this scourge that has no borders and sees Latin America as a single territory for its actions."

He added: "Despite the economic problems we are facing and the fact that our democracies are young, we must unite to guard our children because this infamous business is closely linked to AIDS."

Alberto Lestelle, secretary of prevention and struggle against drug trafficking, also delivered a speech. He explained that the purpose of the meeting "is for the three countries to act in a coordinated manner because we know that the cartels leaving Colombia will definitely settle in our areas."

Lestelle added: "We will specifically concentrate on the control of drug trafficking and other related crimes such

as car smuggling—cars are exchanged for marijuana in Paraguay and for cocaine in Bolivia—or the control over the smuggling of psychotropic drugs and precursors that are stolen in our country and sold in Brazil and Paraguay, respectively."

Lestelle said that some of the measures to be adopted to combat those crimes include "the installation of radars in the border regions and the establishment of dates and mechanisms for joint operations."

The trilateral meeting, which opened in the Bauen Hotel today, will continue this week. The activities include visits to specific units of the Federal Police, the Gendarmerie, and the Prefecture.

Duhalde Implicated in Customs Irregularities

PY1204144691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Former Ezeiza Airport Customs official Ibrahim Al-Ibrahim, currently under trial in a case of drug money laundering, told Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria that Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde and other state officials regularly asked him to use his influence to enter "bags and suitcases" into the country by-passing Customs officers, according to an article published in this week's edition of the Gente magazine.

The magazine has published an alleged text of Al-Ibrahim's testimony before Servini de Cubria, in which the ex-official claims that "I frequently received requests from the presidential office, from both Houses of Congress and from the Interior Ministry to make documents come out faster or to let bags through Customs."

Al-Ibrahim pointed out that "Duhalde was the one who came most frequently with such requests for his aides Hector Lenci and Alberto Bujia, and there were also frequent requests from Lower House Speaker Alberto Pierri, Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa and Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo."

When asked for the reasons for having been appointed a Customs official (especially since his command of Spanish was not even good enough to testify without a translator), Al-Ibrahim answered that it was "because of the support I gave to the presidential campaign."

Al-Ibrahim, his ex-wife and current Presidential Appointments Secretary Amira Yoma, her brother Karim Yoma and ex-water resources official Mario Caserta are all named as drug money launderers in the confession of a Panamanian drug-dealer to a Spanish court, in which the repentant criminal said that the "Argentine connection" laundered money from the sale of Colombian cocaine in Europe.

In statements later in the day, Duhalde said he did not know personally Al-Ibrahim and downplayed the latter's accusations. However, it was Duhalde who appointed

Al-Ibrahim at Ezeiza in 1989, while he was acting President during President Carlos Menem's first trip abroad.

Expelled Deputy's Secretary Arrested With Cocaine

PY1404232891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 13 Apr p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA)—A secretary at Catamarca Deputy Angel Luque's congressional office was arrested allegedly trying to smuggle one kilo of cocaine on board an Aerolineas Argentinas flight bound for Brazil, Italy and Switzerland last Wednesday, April 3, it was revealed yesterday.

The woman, Rosa Clara Martinez Ferreyra de Cerreto, was reported to have tried to board the 5.55 pm Aerolineas flight 134 with four quarter-kilo packets of cocaine taped to her body under her clothes.

She was said to be carrying an address book listing Deputy Luque's Buenos Aires and Catamarca phone numbers.

She was brought before Judge Susana Castro de Pellet Lastra who ordered her Avellaneda home searched.

Eleven kilos of cocaine have reportedly been seized at Ezeiza airport in the last six days, six last Friday and three this Monday, court sources said.

The 41-year-old alleged drug courier was a "noqui" at Deputy Luque's office, meaning she received a Congressional paycheck every month but was never expected to actually turn up for work.

She confessed she was told she would receive 20,000 dollars in Rome for delivering the cocaine, and that she had travelled on similar errands twice before, once last June and once last September, allegedly reporting back to Deputy Luque on her return in both cases, the sources informed.

Martinez Ferreyra de Cerreto held various jobs at Congress starting four years ago, until she joined Luque's office last August, earning a seven-million austral monthly wage.

Under questioning, the suspect reacted angrily when the judge asked her why she never turned up for work: "There's hundreds in Congress who only turn up at the end of the month to collect their pay but never turn up for work," she rejoined.

Judge To Investigate Banks' Links to Drug Money

PY1204150091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 11 Apr 91 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—Judge Hugo Martin Valerga will open an official investigation into court testimony by Arab magnate Gaith Pharaon on Tuesday [9 April] citing banks

involved in the laundering of drug dollars, sources from the law courts affirmed yesterday. The case may then be elevated to a federal court.

Meanwhile, the multimillionaire publicly denounced yesterday that many other banking firms "are involved in laundering money" earned from the sale of cocaine in the United States and Europe.

Pharaon caused a major commotion with his confession to Judge Valerga during a slander case filed against Argentine journalist and writer Rogelio Garcia Lupo.

"Everyone launders drug dollars, everyone is a criminal but they only attack the Arab bank. There is a campaign against the Arab bank," was the gist of his confession before the Argentine judge on Tuesday morning.

"It is public knowledge that banks, especially Swiss banks, are involved in the laundering of drug dollars and that Swiss government officials have had to resign from their posts," the magnate said on Radio Mitre yesterday afternoon. He identified the Greek National Bank, the Bank of Boston and Credit Suisse as drug money launderers.

His allegedly explicit admission of illicit activities obliges the judge to open an official investigation in order to find out the magnitude of the criminal activity, court sources said.

Pharaon's statements, which were carried by major newspapers all over the country, also prompted speculation amongst legislators demanding information about the investment projects of the magnate in Argentina and the possible connections with the Yoma clan drug money laundering operation under investigation by Federal Judge Maria Servinide Cubria.

Military To Take Part in Antidrug Intelligence Work

PY1004191191 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (NA)—After returning from Germany, President Carlos Menem will sign a decree creating the Federal Service Against the Drug Trade (Sefeconar), which will provide for Armed Forces participation in intelligence tasks in the fight against the illegal drug trade.

According to a high-level government source, military personnel will be charged with locating clandestine airfields using a sophisticated radar system, but they will not participate in "acts of repression" against drug traffickers. [Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1226 GMT on 10 April in a similar report adds: "Argentine Vice President Eduardo Duhalde announced today that military personnel will 'participate in intelligence tasks,' such as the search for clandestine air fields used by drug traffickers."]

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Sefeconar will be made up of 100 men, including police and security personnel specializing in the antidrug fight.

After creating Sefeconar, the Argentine Government will approve a national plan against illegal drug trade and will issue regulations to implement Law 23737 with regard to concrete actions the government will take to prevent the "laundering" of drug dollars.

The source said that two months ago the government decided to address once and for all and on every front a struggle against the drug trade. In this regard, he voiced concern over what could happen in Congress because the Defense Law prohibits the Armed Forces from becoming involved in domestic conflicts.

It has been reported that the military officers themselves have time and again rejected the possibility of getting involved in the antidrug fight.

Gonzalez Rules Out Direct Military Role in Drug Fight

PY1004191291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1654 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today stated that "it is not the role of the Armed Forces to participate in the antidrug fight. The only thing they can do is use some equipment to give logistic support to the security forces."

Gonzalez noted that the military institutions "also face restrictions in intelligence efforts, because the law prohibits them from carrying out domestic intelligence activities."

Gonzalez made these remarks to reporters accredited to the Defense Ministry. He also denied reports of his possible departure from the Defense Ministry to become the new interior minister.

Interpol Delegations Cooperate To Disband Drug Ring

PY1404004691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1532 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (TELAM)—The Argentine, Spanish, and French Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization] delegations have disbanded an important drug-trafficking gang operating in South America and Europe.

The investigations began when the Federal Police's Superintendency of Dangerous Drugs monitored the activities of a man later identified as Juan Carlos Hernandez, alias Chiche, who bought cocaine in Bolivia, transferred it to a clandestine warehouse he owned in Brazil, and then sent it to Paris in special suitcases.

With information provided by the Argentine Interpol delegation, the French police waited for Hernandez and arrested him along with his companion, Sonia Cristina Graca Galbao.

At the same time, the Spanish Interpol delegation informed its Argentine counterpart that it was investigating a drug-trafficking case in Mallorca involving three Argentine citizens. The Argentines were identified as Pedro Bordoy Mestrel, Provenza Bordoy, and Bordoy Mestrel's wife. They said they represented the Asuncion Building Company, which is thought to launder drug-trafficking money.

On learning of this case, the Argentine Interpol delegation discovered that Mary Estela Bogarin Regis de Moreno, one of the company directors, was connected with Juan Antonio Solano, who has been indicted for drug trafficking and was wanted by the French Interpol delegation. The Federal Police immediately began looking for Solano; he was found in his office at No. 626 Esmeralda Street, arrested, and placed at disposal of the court.

BOLIVIA

Supplies, Ammunition, U.S. Military Experts Arrive

PY0504182591 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The resolution of the National Congress that cleared the way for the entry of North American troops is being implemented.

A Galaxy airplane, carrying 120 tons of ammunition and—of course—weapons, arrived yesterday at the El Alto international airport in the city of La Paz. Nine North American military men, reportedly all technicians, also arrived.

The 120 North American military men and all their mechanical equipment is scheduled for the next few days.

We must remember that the arrival of 50 carpenters, electricians, and plumbers who will be involved in the civic action work in various coca producing zones has been foreseen. A total of 84 experts from all services will reportedly arrive for the computerized technical exercises. The military medical assistance will reportedly be supported by 55 to 60 doctors, dentists, and veterinarians.

It is appropriate to point out that the U.S. Government, through its Armed Forces, will donate the following equipment for the work in our country: nine Caterpillar tractors, eight road graders, eight trailer [preceding word in English] trucks, 29 trucks, four compactors, and complete communications equipment.

The transport battalion will be equipped with 76 2.4-ton trucks and 24 jeeps [preceding word in English].

Two Hercules airplanes, four helicopters for the Air Force, and patrol boats for the Bolivian Navy will also arrive.

The North American military team's work begins today. We must point out that Congress has approved their work with the Manchego Battalion in Santa Cruz from 4 April, that is, today, until 15 July. The North American military men will train the Jordan Battalion personnel in Beni Department from 2 September to 30 November.

Deputy Ratifies U.S. Report on Militarization

PY0604192491 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] A confidential report by the North American Congress on militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking in our country, which was read yesterday during Fides Central Newscast, has been ratified by national Deputy Ernesto Machicado.

[Begin Machicado recording] The criticism of the North American Congress is very revealing for Bolivia. On one hand, we are told that the Armed Forces in Bolivia will militarily occupy certain zones in the Chapare and Beni, and that house-to-house raids will be carried out, probably by police forces.

The North American Congress is extremely critical of this situation; it points out some aspects that are very worrisome. The American Congress tells us that militarization will result in an escalation of violence in Bolivia, that militarization represents a provocation, and that, as in Peru, it will breed violence because there will be a response—especially from peasants producing coca—to this situation and it will be an armed response.

The American Congress also tells us militarization will debilitate the legitimacy of the government. It tells us that militarization will jeopardize the democratic process and obviously arouse nondemocratic appetites that, in this way, could substitute a process that has claimed lives and has demanded a great deal of sacrifice by Bolivians. [end recording]

COB Protests Militarization of Antinarcotics Struggle

PY0604144491 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Involvement of the military forces in the struggle against drug trafficking will mark the beginning of corruption within the Armed Forces and their discredit claims the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], which announced on 5 April a 24-hour strike that will begin on 9 April.

Julio Arce, a leader of our country's leading labor union organization, blamed the oligarchy for the recent congressional decisions authorizing the arrival of North American forces to initiate the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] [Arce] The Armed Forces will become corrupt—as they have been corrupted on previous occasions—through this direct contact with drug trafficking. Nonetheless, this is not the primary problem. The primary problem will be that since they will not be able to find drug traffickers in the coca-producing zones, they will have to extort this information and become involved in a series of human rights violations against the peasants producing coca leaves.

[Unidentified reporter] How can the participation of the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking undermine our country's democratic stability?

[Arce] This is an overwhelming reality. I believe that all the political experts in the world know perfectly well that when an army is built up too much, it is precisely to implement a military dictatorship. This is what the United States is seeking because we have never believed in the democracy it implements. It only supports a democracy when it is controlled. When it cannot be controlled, when a country really achieves a democratic reality, the United States chooses coups d'état and, to this end, it must supply arms to the military so they can riddle their (?peoples) with bullets. [end recording]

Army To Control Entry of Precursor Chemicals

PY1204184091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
2 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico has told PRESENCIA that specially trained Army troops will step up control measures on the Bolivian border to prevent the entry of chemicals and precursors intended for factories and laboratories operating in the eastern part of the country.

He said that this measure, which has not yet been implemented, will help in the struggle against drug trafficking. He said: "Coca cannot be turned into drugs without chemicals."

According to official reports, 85 percent of the chemicals used by drug traffickers are smuggled into the country, with the remaining 15 percent diverted from legal imports for local markets.

Torrico said: "The measure will affect important interests." He is organizing a "Seminar on Controlling Essential Precursors and Chemicals in the South American Region," which will be held in La Paz from 9 to 12 April. This seminar will be sponsored by the CICAD [Inter-American Committee for the Control of Drugs and Drug Abuses]-OAS.

According to investigations, most of the hydrochloric acid—control over which must become a priority

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because it is an essential chemical for cocaine processing—is brought into Bolivia across its borders with Argentina and Chile. Most of the sulfuric acid and ammonia come from Germany.

Also included on the list of chemical-producing countries, Torrico said, are the PRC, the United States, Italy, France, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.

The signing of bilateral and multilateral accords will reflect the effectiveness of the event and the political will to control the problems affecting drug-producing countries and those affected by drug trafficking.

Bolivia has the legal support because Law 1008 clearly establishes the chemicals that are totally or partially prohibited. Subsequent ministry-issued resolutions have expanded the list.

Torrico said countries must be alert to the need to preserve the environment, which has been damaged by the irresponsible use of chemicals.

Lack of Control

A bulletin on this subject reports that Argentina has confirmed that "the hydrochloric acid, acetone, and ether manufactured in the country can be freely purchased. It could not be proved whether the foreign companies to which the chemicals have been sent really exist." It is believed that they are false enterprises.

Foreign Minister Requests Control of Chemical Products

PY0904210591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1817 GMT
9 Apr 91

[Text] La Paz, 9 Apr (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde today warned the international community to control the marketing of the chemical products that are used in the manufacture of cocaine and that are as important in the production of the drug as its raw material, the coca leaves.

Iturralde said: "The coca leaf is innocuous and harmless and is only turned into a dangerous drug that causes irreversible harm if it is processed using chemicals that are not produced in Bolivia."

The minister today dedicated a Latin American seminar on the control of that type of chemical substances. Representatives of 18 countries are present at the seminar including observers from the European nations that are considered the main producers [of these chemicals].

Iturralde said: "It is absolutely necessary for all the countries of the international community to be committed to a better control of the so-called essential chemical substances, without which the manufacturing of drugs would be impossible."

Bolivia and Peru are the main world producers of coca leaves, which is turned into cocaine hydrochloride in

clandestine laboratories in Colombia, and then distributed in the United States and Europe, the greatest consumers of that drug.

Most of the chemical products used to process the coca leaves into cocaine paste and then into cocaine hydrochloride come from Europe and are smuggled in by Latin American enterprises to the countries where the drug is processed.

"Drug trafficking is not the exclusive responsibility of the countries that produce drugs. It is the responsibility of the international concert of nations, and it must be faced as such by all nations taking into account the very properties of this drug in the different countries," Iturralde said.

The foreign minister said that the industrialized nations must control the consumption of drugs and also prevent "the chemical substances produced in those countries from being diverted for the illegal manufacturing of drugs."

The demand for chemical products in the preparation of cocaine is increasing, it generates "very large" profits, and for this reason "the number of people involved in this activity is also increasing, which makes control even more difficult," he said.

FELCN Chief Linked to Illegal Chemicals Found Hanged

PY1404215091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT
14 Apr 91

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (EFE)—A department chief of the Bolivian antinarcotics police was found hanged after he was said to be linked to one of the largest networks importing illegal chemical products to make drugs.

Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Ravasa Macagua, chief of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) in Oruro Department, was found hanged with a tie on 12 April in a house in La Paz, according to official reports published by the local press today.

The same sources indicated that the possible suicide was an act of desperation because of the "shame for his family and his institution" over his alleged link to an illegal network of chemical product traffickers.

According to Oruro Police Chief Colonel Alberto Saavedra Torres, Ravasa gave orders last week to have a truck loaded with chemicals for making cocaine escorted by two FELCN agents from the border with Chile, where the trucks originated, to the valleys of central Cochabamba Department, a major cocaine production center.

Ravasa was summoned to La Paz to answer charges of his alleged link with drug trafficking, but his body was found on 12 April in his brother's house in La Paz.

According to PRESENCIA, Ravasa, who as appointed FELCN chief in Oruro 80 days ago, was a chief in one of the largest illegal networks transporting chemical products for making cocaine.

According to the daily, the "incredible network of traffickers" has been operating for eight months. The network legally imported the chemicals from Chile through a company that has not been identified and then transported the chemicals to the Cochabamba region in the custody of antinarcotics police agents.

The discovery of the network of chemical traffickers coincides with a Latin American seminar in La Paz on the need to control the chemicals necessary for cocaine production.

Bolivia is the world's second-largest producer of coca, the raw material for making cocaine, after Peru. The DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] considers Bolivia the world's second-largest producer of cocaine, after Colombia.

University Students Reject Militarization, Mining Code

PY1104161191 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish
1100 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] In light of the congressmen's official decision to authorize the presence of U.S. military advisers in the country, who have come to turn the Manchego and Jordan Battalions into murders of their brothers, and in view of the congressmen's decision to approve the amendments of the mining code whereby they authorized the privatization of state-owned mines and the surrender of our natural resources to imperialism, the representatives of the university movement has made the following decisions:

- 1) To strongly reject the militarization of the coca-producing areas and to support the resolution [words indistinct].
- 2) To oppose the amendments of the mining code and to express solidarity with the wave of mine occupations that will lead to a similar occupation [words indistinct] to avoid their privatizations.
- 3) To call upon the university community to reject the criminal resolutions issued by Congress, and to organize a struggle through those exploited [words indistinct] a corrupt and treacherous government.

Signed: Daniel Fernandez, representative of students of the Architecture Faculty and Arts School of the Greater University of San Andres [UMSA]; Ramiro Aguilar, representative of the UMSA student center of the [word indistinct]; Osvaldo [last name indistinct], representative of Social Communication Center; and Jose Luis Careca, representative of Social Science Faculty and of the Sociologist Student Center of the UMSA.

COLOMBIA

Authorities Link Jailed Ochoas to Cocaine Farms

PA1004155991 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
4 Apr 91 p 14A

[Text] National police director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla said yesterday that the Arizona and La Voragine farms, where 12 tons of cocaine have been seized over the past 45 days, belong to the Ochoa Vasquez brothers.

The high-ranking officer, who chaired a promotion ceremony of 100 noncommissioned officers at the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quezada military school in Sibate, added that "the farms belong to them and now some of their front men could be running them; we are going to investigate and we will continue investigating."

The officer also said that the real owners of the drugs were important Medellin Cartel members, but he did not identify them.

Gomez said: "There is sufficient evidence pointing to the Medellin Cartel as the owners of the drug, given the routes, the procedures, and the sites where we are currently carrying out intelligence efforts to destroy the laboratories where the drug was being processed."

Gomez Padilla noted that during the drug operations in the Cordoba Department, the police intelligence service determined that drug traffickers Dario Mendoza Para and Luis Jeronimo Berrocal, who were arrested by the Judicial Technical Police in Venezuela on 30 March, were only in charge of sending the drugs abroad.

The general also confirmed that the Directorate of the Judicial Police and Investigation (DIJIN) is working on evidence that could implicate the Ochoa brothers in the cocaine cargo. The Ochoa brothers are currently in an Itagui jail, having taken advantage of the benefits provided in Decrees 2047 and 303, which allow reduced sentences and rule out extradition for those who surrender to the authorities.

However, the general added: "It is one thing for people to surrender, as some have done, and it is another for their subordinates to replace them in drug trafficking."

In this regard, Gomez Padilla said it is possible that the infrastructure owned by the Ochoa brothers in Cordoba Department is being used by other members of the Medellin Cartel.

The officer said that "the Ochoas have shown good faith by surrendering, but it is something else for their property to be used to transport and distribute drugs."

EL TIEMPO consulted Hernando Cordoba, director of the Agustin Codazzi Geographical Institute of Sucre, to find out who really owns the farms where the antinarcotics operations were carried out, but the official said he

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could not provide any information because of the orders from the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) and the police.

Nevertheless, in Cordoba, some sources indicated that the owner of La Voragine farm, where 4,150 kg of cocaine were seized a month ago, is Jairo Pineda, who was killed by hired gunmen in Medellin several days after the cocaine seizure.

Regarding the Arizona farm, other sources said it is owned by a person with the last name of Negrete. Negrete is believed to be the front man for the real owners: Dario Menoza and Luis Jeronimo Berrocal.

On another subject, Gen. Gomez Padilla said he does not know where the telephone call from Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar Gaviria came from. During the call, Escobar Gaviria said that he will not surrender until the extradition issue is included on the agenda of the national constituent assembly.

Ochoa Brothers Deny Ownership of Cordoba Farms

PA1004224791 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
5 Apr 91 p 14-A

[Text] The Ochoa brothers, Jorge Luis, Fabio, and Juan David, said on 4 April that they have never been the direct or indirect owners of the "Arizona" and "La Voragine" farms in Cordoba, where 11 tons of cocaine were found.

In a communique issued from the Itagui Penitentiary, they pointed out that they had received "information that our enemies were planning to link us again to drug trafficking."

On 3 April, Police Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla stated that the Ochoas had been or are the owners of the farms in question, he added that an investigation is under way to determine whether they are directly connected to the drugs.

On 4 April, the Ochoas released a copy of a letter dated 6 February and addressed to Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel. According to the Ochoas, the letter claimed that the security agencies intended to link them to cocaine trafficking.

It stated that: "An attorney, who is advising us, met with a high-ranking government official who told her that security agency reports suggested that we are still involved in drug-trafficking activities and handling such transactions from the penitentiary.

Penned by Jorge Luis and Fabio Ochoa, the letter asks "Doctor, [Giraldo Angel] do you think that we, after having turned ourselves in, would continue in this business—given that we have the opportunity to mend our lives and the lives of our families?"

At the time the letter was sent Juan David had not yet turned himself in; he surrendered to the authorities on 16 February.

Gomez Padilla, in statements to the press, said that there is sufficient evidence to prove that the cocaine found in Cordoba belonged to the Medellin Cartel.

According to the high-ranking official, Dario Mendoza Parra and Jeronimo Berrocal—drug traffickers who were arrested in Venezuela and charged with the disappearance of a narcotics agent and his assistant, and were also charged as the owners of the cocaine seized in Cordoba—were mere contacts in charge of expediting the drugs abroad.

The police director, however, did not say that the drugs belonged to the Ochoas. He stated: "It is one thing to surrender to Colombian justice, as some have done; it is another matter for them to be immediately replaced by second- or third-rate members who continue with the drug trafficking."

The Ochoa brothers, in their 4 April communique, claimed that the statements made by the police "are false and ill-intentioned and seek to undermine our good intentions and the government's policy.

Justice Minister Discusses Ochoa Case

PA0804163391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1257 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Report on interview with Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel by Carlos Alberto Garzu in Bogota on 8 April]

[Excerpt] [Garzu] Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel has denied a report by the New York *NEWSDAY* according to which there is a disagreement between the Colombian and U.S. Governments over the supply of evidence against the Ochoa Vasquez brothers, who are currently being held at the Itagui jail. The minister also described as unjustified the criticism by some criminal lawyers about the decree that regulates the law to end the backlog in the courts. Here are Minister Giraldo's remarks about the possibility that the Ochoa brothers will be freed because of lack of evidence.

[Begin recording] [Giraldo] First, it is not true that we are not carrying out the process to obtain evidence. The country has learned of the text of the memorandum of intention that was signed by the Colombian and U.S. Governments for the exchange of evidence in this regard. The memorandum established that the U.S. attorney general and the chief of the Legal Office of the Colombian Presidency are the ones who will process the request for the sending of evidence. Much progress has already been made in specifying which elements will be used to make the appropriate request and to supply the evidence in keeping with the steps established by law. Along with the Colombian attorney general, I held very detailed talks with officials of the U.S. Attorney General's Office

to specify all these elements. In Colombia, we are drafting a decree under the state of siege system to define the procedures for the presentation of evidence. Everything is moving ahead normally and I am sure that there will be no problems.

[Garzu] Does this mean that the evidence from the United States against the Ochoa brothers is expected in the next few months?

[Giraldo] Of course, and quite earlier than the deadlines established in the decrees, which stipulate nine or 12 months depending on crimes committed inside and outside the country or crimes committed solely abroad.

[Garzu] Former Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez, who is currently acting as defense lawyer for the Ochoa brothers, has said that there are no proceedings pending against them in Colombia and that no court has presented evidence against the alleged members of the Medellin Cartel. Is this true?

[Giraldo] I could not tell you because all that falls under the confidentiality of the legal proceedings. Perhaps, as their defense lawyer, he could have some specific information on this. I really do not have any (?information) in this regard.

[Garzu] General Gomez Padilla, director of the National Police, recently said that the farms on which cocaine was found in Cordoba Department are owned by the Ochoa brothers. If this turns out to be true, would this be included in the proceedings against them?

[Giraldo] No, as you know, all legal decisions are based on the evidence that is provided, and mere speculation about possible actions are not grounds to make a decision against anyone. Second, the mere fact that you own a property does not mean that you are necessarily responsible for the crimes that may have been committed on that property. I think it is too premature to say anything and to speculate without grounds. This greatly harms the justice system. It is better to wait for the judges to undertake the investigations and to reach the necessary conclusions.

[Garzu] The Ochoa brothers have sent a letter to the public, saying that there are enemies of the process involving the surrender of drug traffickers in Colombia. Is this true? Are there really enemies of this process and if there are, who are they?

[Giraldo] I cannot say whether there are such enemies. But in the report you read to me prior to this interview, it said that some Colombian officials had said that the process to obtain evidence had been suspended. That is not true. Therefore, there are no grounds for stating that and if someone said it, he is interested in torpedoing the process. But I really have no knowledge that there is someone interested in acting in the way you mentioned.

[Garzu] When the government issued the decrees to facilitate the surrender of drug traffickers, the Ochoa brothers, the main heads of the Medellin Cartel, turned

themselves in but there have not been any more surrenders. What is really happening?

[Giraldo] I could not say. One would have to look at the subjective motivation of each individual. I could not even guess. [passage omitted]

[end recording]

Drug Cartel 'Intelligence Chief' Killed in Bogota

PA1304141191 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish
3 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] The alleged chief of the late drug trafficker Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha's intelligence network was murdered on the night of 2 April in Bogota by unidentified persons riding in a Mazda automobile.

A National Police spokesperson reported that retired Captain Jorge Noe Barreto Rodriguez was killed near 127th Street and 55th Avenue while on his way home. Capt. Jorge Noe Barreto Rodriguez had been detained several times by the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations, Dijin [Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate], charged with being a member of the dangerous organization headed by the late drug trafficker Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. Barreto Rodriguez was always released, however, for lack of evidence.

The only thing known about the Mazda used by the hit men is the license plate number, 2137. The letters on the plate were not clearly identified.

The former officer had also been involved in the "El Contador" neighborhood scandal, where seven people, among them Eduardo Sabino [not further identified], were killed during a police operation carried out by the F-2 [Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics].

COSTA RICA

Ruling Party Severs Ties to U.S. Financier

PA1504151691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2110 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] San Jose, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon today said his party has cut off all ties to Lloyd Rubin, a U.S. citizen who contributed to his political campaign and who is now under investigation in the United States for fraud.

"We have cut off all relationship with that person," Calderon told ACAN-EFE. He also confirmed that Rubin contributed to his campaign for the presidential nomination of the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) by purchasing \$100,000 worth of bonds.

The president added that his government has not asked for additional information from U.S. authorities, but he did not rule out that this might be done after the topic is discussed in an upcoming cabinet meeting.

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The U.S. WALL STREET JOURNAL recently reported that the U.S. Embassy in Panama received 24 complaints of cases of alleged fraud committed by Rubin against U.S. citizens. According to the newspaper, Rubin had close ties to ousted Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The U.S. financier, who has faced prosecution for fraud in the United States and who is being investigated by the FBI for similar crimes, was one of the "courtesy guests" at Calderon's inauguration on 8 May 1990.

Calderon clarified that Rubin did not make donations to his presidential campaign; instead, he purchased bonds, "in a financial operation like any other, with a respective interest rate; and he then recovered his money."

Calderon indicated that it was Julio Harris, current Panamanian minister of the presidency, who established contact between "our people and Rubin's finance company, and we never imagined that the company would be charged with fraud."

"We have been clear about this," Calderon said, explaining the difference between contributions, "which we only receive from Costa Rican citizens" and investments. He added that "we always want campaign funds to be clean."

Calderon said the Rubin case and other similar cases, which have affected other Costa Rican parties, "should make us think about the laws dealing with the funding of parties."

Legislators of the opposition Social Democratic National Liberation Party (PLN) today asked that this case be heard by a special legislative commission that is investigating actions related to drug trafficking in Costa Rica.

ECUADOR

Antidrug Law Regulations Officially Published

91SM0244Z Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish
10 Mar 91 p 10

[Text] Quito—The president has issued Executive Order No. 2145-A containing regulations for application of the law on narcotics and mind-altering substances promulgated on 17 September 1990 in Official Registry No. 523.

Context and Features

The order issued regulates actions aimed at combating and eradicating the illegal production and supply of, trafficking in, and improper use of narcotics and mind-altering substances; actions relating to control of the production and marketing of controlled substances; actions connected with research into the causes of dependency, prevention of improper use, and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons; and finally, actions relating to organization of the directive, executive, advisory,

administrative, and technical operations level of the National Council on Prevention of the Improper Use of Narcotics (CONSEP).

Organizations

CONSEP, an autonomous legal, government entity established by Article 9 of the law, will be made up of the following organs: a board of directors, an office of executive secretary, regional and zonal headquarters whose locations will be determined by the board, and provincial headquarters.

Drug Addicts

The "improper use of medicines, mind-altering substances, narcotics, or any other controlled substance is interpreted to mean without a doctor's prescription."

Law enforcement officers who take persons exhibiting symptoms of being under the harmful effects of a controlled substance to hospitals or care centers for verification of their condition by medical personnel will immediately notify CONSEP, radio patrols, or the closest police detail. They may not take them to jail or provisional holding centers.

Rehabilitation

The main purpose of treatment and rehabilitation measures is to help the person be usefully reintegrated into the community.

Treatment administered to persons improperly using controlled substances may be on an inpatient or outpatient basis, depending on the evaluation made by doctors in the individual cases and confirmed by CONSEP forensic experts.

Chemical Substances

Importers and exporters of chemical precursors and other specific chemical products who obtain authorization to import or export such products must sell exclusively to individuals or corporations registered and classified by CONSEP and report such sales to CONSEP monthly.

Importers, pharmaceutical laboratories, clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies that sell medicines or prescriptions containing narcotics or mind-altering substances will apply to CONSEP for the proper license.

Import or export permits covering controlled substances will expire 180 and 90 days following issuance, respectively, may be used only once, and cannot be used for the importation or exportation of different substances.

Drug Money Laundering

CONSEP will send to superintendents of banking and corporations, the country's property and commercial registries, directors of cooperatives, and provincial transit directors lists of individuals under investigation

and being prosecuted or sentenced for crimes classified by law, which lists will be treated as confidential and updated twice monthly.

In order that the Office of the Superintendent of Banks may authorize the registration of the transfer of shares in the entity subject to regulation, CONSEP must send to that entity twice monthly the confidential list of persons involved in infractions, as defined by law.

GUATEMALA

Police Seize 571 Kg of Cocaine From 4 Foreigners

PA1404180491 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 12 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Four foreigners have been arrested by the National Police Antinarcotics Brigade, which seized the 571 kg of cocaine that the foreigners were carrying in vehicles of recent make, which had U.S. license plates. The origin and destination of the drug are as yet unknown.

Those arrested are Panamanians Julian Ignacio Hernandez and Bolivia del Carmen Poveda Mendoza, who has a doctorate in psychology; and Colombians Carlos Enrique Gonzalez Gomez and Jorge Enrique Lopez. They have all been turned over to the courts.

The four individuals were traveling in two vehicles, one a 1990 red Suburban and the other a pick-up of the same color and make, when they were intercepted on La Reforma Avenue and 10th Street in Guatemala City's Zone 10 at 2000 on 10 April. They were transporting 571 kg of cocaine, worth 70 million quetzales.

Part of the cocaine was hidden in the air-conditioning equipment. The group had been staying in a Guatemala City hotel for several days, so it is believed they had just received the drug before being arrested.

At the moment of their arrest, they were moving the cocaine from one place to another. These details are still under police investigation. The National Police found several documents in the vehicles that will contribute to the investigations.

HONDURAS

Armed Forces Officers Comment on DEA Sting Operation

PA1104225491

[Editorial Report] Following is a summary of Honduran media publications in Spanish reporting on the statements issued by Honduran Armed Forces officers concerning the seizure of 44 kg of cocaine aboard a Belize Air International airplane at the Ramon Villeda Morales International Airport in San Pedro Sula on Saturday 5 April and the subsequent issuance of a U.S. Embassy

communique stating that the drug was part of a DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] sting operation:

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA on 11 April publishes a 700-word report on page 4 quoting Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir on the case. Gen. Discua says that "the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] did the right thing when they captured, investigated, and arraigned the drug traffickers before the corresponding courts." He adds that the Armed Forces are currently "planning to create two antidrug military units" that will not "allow for the violation of Honduran territory with antidrug operations that are detrimental for the nation's sovereignty." The military officer says "that the persons arrested during the seizure, and the aircraft" used for the operation will "be turned over to the appropriate courts."

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO on 11 April publishes a 350-word report on page 10 with details of FUSEP Spokesman Captain Cesar Augusto Somoza's statements on the case. Captain Somoza says that the FUSEP "acted with professionalism and the police did the right thing" and now the DEA must prove in court that the drug seized in the aircraft was being used in a controlled operation. The officer adds that "the note issued by the U.S. Embassy" concerning the drug seizure "is contradictory." He says that "the contradiction is quite clear" because the information "first says that the drug was being brought to Honduras" and then it says "that the drug is in transit." Consequently, "the DEA must prove and clarify" the situation before Judge Fatima de Mena at the Second Criminal Court in San Pedro Sula. The FUSEP officer explains that "the Honduran Police knew nothing about this so the proper action was taken," adding that "if the drug had been allowed through" the authorities would have been incompetent.

The same paper on page 11 publishes a 650-word report on an interview with Colonel Julio Armando Pavon Rodriguez, commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade, by reporter David Romero Murillo. The military officer states that "the U.S. Embassy's declaration does not exonerate the people who participated in the cocaine-trafficking operation" because "the Armed Forces are interested in protecting the people's health and the declaration does not discourage us; we will continue to exert ourselves to the utmost to prevent drug trafficking in our country."

Col. Pavon says that "all the evidence has been turned over to the corresponding authorities" and "the police will step aside after presenting the evidence" because "the courts of justice will be in charge of the suspects." The commander adds that "there are definitely certain situations, certain facts, and certain collateral elements that must be investigated" because "drug trafficking is a deeply rooted and vastly extensive operation." He stresses that "the Honduran Government is honest, and

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the Armed Forces commanders are men with an honorable and honest conduct," and they are exerting themselves "to protect the health of the American people, whom we consider our friends."

Callejas on Drug Seizure Incident in San Pedro Sula

PA1204224091 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras
in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] At the presidency, we asked President Alfredo Callejas about drug trafficking and the DEA's [Drug Enforcement Administration] alleged intervention in connection with the seizure of cocaine in San Pedro Sula.

[Begin Callejas recording] This incident has surprised and saddened everyone and has put the country in a very complex situation, because of the lack of communication between the various DEA organizations. The government has taken its legal stand with the Judicial Branch and has proceeded according to the laws of the country. As I have told the media, the people involved verbally admitting that they had a relationship with the DEA is not enough to stop the Judicial Branch from acting as it did. This has been an embarrassing situation for everyone involved.

We will try to enforce the country's laws. At the same time, we understand the need to fight drug trafficking—we are not friends of the United States for nothing—so all of our authorities are aware of these operations. It is surprising for a plane bound for Miami to land at the San Pedro Sula Airport with a drug shipment. The Honduran Armed Forces quickly found the shipment and, because they found it, a disagreement and a clash occurred. I do not think that this is the proper way to handle such an incident because of the excellent relations between the United States and Honduras. [end recording]

3 Kg of Cocaine, 25 Lbs of Marijuana Seized

91WD0604A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish
21 Feb 91 p 21

[Text] La Ceiba—The Public Security Force (FUSEP) has arrested Emerson Anderson and Arthur James Hilt, who were caught by surprise, carrying 3 kg of cocaine.

Anderson (24 years old), a merchant sailor, and Hilt (52 years old), a North American businessman, live in Roatan, Islas de la Bahia, where they will be placed under the jurisdiction of the courts.

According to the short police report, the drugs confiscated are valued at 125,000 lempiras.

The police also reported the arrest of Ustaquio Archaga (31 years old), a native of Tocoa, who is accused of trafficking, possession, and sale of marijuana. When he was arrested, Archaga was carrying 25 lbs of marijuana in a small suitcase.

MEXICO

Gains in Money-Laundering Prosecution Cited

91WB0044B Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA
in Spanish 8 Mar 91 pp 15-A, 18-A

[Excerpts] San Juan del Rio, Queretaro (OEM)—Mexico is not shackled for combating money laundering, "which is now categorized as a crime, with preliminary investigations and remands supported by the fiscal legislation in force." This claim was made by the general coordinator to deal with crimes against health, Jorge Carrillo Olea. [passage omitted]

Carrillo Olea also declared that substantial progress has been made in Mexico. Conclusive evidence of this is the fact that money laundering has now been categorized as an isolated crime in Article 115 bis of the Federation's Fiscal Code, which went into effect as of 1 January 1990.

He explained that banking secrecy is punctiliously respected in Mexico, but that when the authorities have evidence warranting the presumption that the origin of certain funds lies in illicit activities associated with drug trafficking, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office has legal grounds for investigating the real source of such assets.

In this regard, he noted that some concrete progress has now been made in conducting preliminary investigations and taking the resultant action.

Alejandro Diaz de Leon, the PGR's [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic] attache at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, for his part, summarized the money-laundering problem as the critical point in the drug traffic, because it constitutes the beginning and end of this complex linkage of crimes. [passage omitted]

Country Claimed Money-Laundering Haven

91WB0044A Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA
in Spanish 9 Mar 91 pp 1A, 9A

[Article by Jorge Aviles Randolph]

[Excerpts] Our country has become a gigantic laundry...for dirty money. In the United States they have established drastic measures to confiscate sums in the multi-millions originating in drug trafficking and being laundered to clean the money. They have closed banks, audited financing companies, and detected a group of business firms sponsored by the international mafia. The latter, engaged in selling drugs, have to find distribution channels for making their dirty money clean.

Hence, Peruvians, Colombians, Ecuadoreans, and, of course, Mexicans, have decided to invest in Mexico. To be sure, this money laundering is not the kind of foreign investment that our country wants.

A few days ago, in the town of Queretaro, representatives from 22 countries met to discuss the drug-trafficking

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issue, the money originating in it, and the way in which international rings operate to invest it. They noted that these rings seek in legitimate businesses a means of laundering the astronomical sums accrued by poisoning humanity with the artificial paradises of cocaine, heroin, angel dust, lysergic acid, crack, and all the products that have been invented to addict millions of people. [passage omitted] It is odd that, just now, the Mexican side is realizing that our country is one of the favorites used for converting bad money into good. For years the drug dealers' investments have been made in all the types of business that one could imagine.

Money from the drug traffic has been invested in hotels, condominiums, discotheques, luxurious restaurants, stock companies, lending agencies, subdivisions, and distributors of various commercial products. In short, the kinds of business in which this kind of activity exists are endless.

On the Country's Northwestern Border

And the "narcos" are delighted to spend their money on the border between Mexico and the United States. The dirty businesses being transformed into clean ones are visible to virtually everyone.

For example, San Luis-Rio Colorado, which was an agricultural market during the cotton boom, has by now lost its status as an agricultural-livestock zone. In exchange, however, it is receiving millions of dollars of investment from the drug traffic. In San Luis-Rio Colorado, a small town, the best variety shows in the country are staged; and businessmen invariably waste money on this type of performance. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, the treasury authorities, those in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, and others, have proved to be myopic, or are clearly protecting the drug dealers overtly spending ill-gotten funds.

Mexicali and Tijuana are places where new, increasingly extravagant, and expensive discotheques are constantly being opened. It takes at least 20 years to recover the investments; but this is the least concern of the drug czars seeking something on which to spend the incalculable sums accrued from their illegitimate businesses.

At Tijuana's beaches there are about 50 houses: enormous residences with covered pools, casinos, gyms, and other amenities, abandoned by drug traffickers. Several of those houses were occupied by Federal Judicial Police agents, who are leading the lives of royalty there. Other residences of a seasonal leisure type belong to drug-dealing families.

And all along the Baja California peninsula (1,500 km from Tijuana to the Cape) there are tourist recreational sites ("resorts," as they are called in English), hotels, and other facilities belonging to notorious Latin American and U.S. drug traffickers.

Just now, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is realizing that dirty money is being laundered in Mexico. There is none so blind as he who will not see, as the popular saying goes.

Fumigation Helicopter Downed in Sinaloa

91WB0044C H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish
13 Mar 91 p A-12

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 12 March (SUN)—Four men armed with AK-47 rifles, who were guarding poppy crops in the sierra region of Cosala, shot down a Bell-206 helicopter with registration XC-IAB belonging to the PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic], that was engaged in fumigating drug plantations.

Private Guillermo Osorio was wounded by several shots during the attack.

The PGR agent, Ricardo Chacon Garcia, reported that members of "Task Force Mars," taking part in the ground operation, were required to return the fire. They succeeded in capturing two drug traffickers.

He said that the names of those in custody would not be revealed, because the identity of the owner of these drug crops situated near the Western Sierra Madre community of La Palma, within the jurisdiction of the municipality of Cosala, is being sought.

The fumigation helicopter sustained nearly 12 shots from a heavy-caliber weapon on several parts of its cockpit. This caused the soldier accompanying the navigator in the operation, Guillermo Osorio, to be hit by several shots. He was admitted to the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] clinic in this town, as the federal official explained.

He remarked that, when the pilot detected a poppy plantation about 10 km above the basin of the Comedero reservoir in Cosala, he made several circular maneuvers close to the ground, attempting to destroy the crops. Just then, four men armed with AK-47 rifles fired several bursts, causing the helicopter to come down near the site.

He noted that the aircraft's navigator managed to contact members of "Task Force Mars," who were participating in a ground operation. They succeeded in capturing two of the armed men.

Authorities Seize 2.3 Tons of Cocaine

PA1104163691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2149 GMT
10 Apr 91

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Apr (DPA)—The Mexican police dealt a heavy blow to the Colombian drug mafia when it confiscated two aircraft and 2.3 tons of pure cocaine, equivalent to 30.8 million drug doses, the Attorney General's Office reported today.

According to the report, the operation was carried out on 7 April at a clandestine landing strip near Santa Cruz de

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las Haciendas, a town in Nayarit State, 800 km west of Mexico City, after a spectacular 2 and 1/2 hour chase by police intercept aircraft.

The Attorney General's Office reported that only one person was arrested during the operation, who claimed he had been hired as a helper the previous day, and that a third plane was able to take off on time and flee.

The police intercept aircraft chased three planes—a King Air and two Turbocommanders—from the time they entered the national air space from Colombia until their landing on the Santa Cruz de las Haciendas landing strip.

The drug traffickers, approximately 20, covered the landing strip with vehicles to prevent the intercept planes from landing. On the landing strip, the traffickers resisted the air siege for 40 minutes; however they ended up fleeing with the drugs before police reinforcements could arrive by land.

The Turbocommander, registration number 180-XBLEK, and the King Air, which did not have a registration number, were left behind on the landing strip. The report concluded by stating that a truck was found abandoned 10 km from the site with 335 kg of cocaine, packed in 85 jute bags.

NICARAGUA

Miami Consul Adolfo Chamorro Resigns

PA1504152891 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
13 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] An official note issued by the Foreign Ministry on 12 April reports that Adolfo (Popo) Chamorro, Nicaraguan consul in Miami, has resigned effective 25 April.

Among the reasons for Chamorro's resignation, the note indicates that he wants to devote time to his private businesses in Nicaragua. Nevertheless, unofficial sources said the consul was recalled by the top officials of the Foreign Ministry. This version was denied by Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal.

Leal also denied that Chamorro's resignation is linked to charges in the mid-1980's that he was involved in narcotics and arms trafficking when he was a member of the counterrevolutionary ranks.

Miskito Leader Accuses 2 High-Level Officials of Drug Trafficking

PA1404150591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera, director of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast, and Inpesca [Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries] Director Javier Morales are being investigated for facilitating drug trafficking.

The charge by Miskito leader Steadman Fagoth that Rivera and Morales are assisting drug trafficking has prompted the Government Ministry to begin a probe. This news has international repercussions owing to the rank of these two officials, who were accused by Fagoth during a meeting he held yesterday with Government Minister Carlos Hurtado.

There is constant talk in the Puerto Cabezas region that trafficking operations in drugs destined for the United States are conducted with the help of fishing boats that belong to the Nicaraguan State. In addition, drug consumption in the town has increased since the Violeta Chamorro government took office because the guidelines for coast guard and military vessels were changed.

PANAMA

Endara Refutes Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering Charges

PA0504171091 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
5 Apr 91 p 38

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has flatly denied any link to drug trafficking and money laundering. He has accused the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] of giving to the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] a statement linking the president's legal firm with organizations involved in such criminal activity.

Endara called a press conference in the Yellow Room of the presidential palace last night after learning that a PRD legislator had disseminated to the Legislative Assembly a document linking corporations created by Endara to money laundering.

"I am a lawyer by trade. As a lawyer, and before becoming president, I participated in the creation of many corporations," Endara said. He added that for a long time he was a friend of the now deceased U.S. lawyer Juan Acosta, who was recommended to his firm by a "very appreciative" client.

Endara admitted that six corporations said to be owned by drug traffickers Augusto Falcon and Salvador Magluta were created by attorney Acosta and the Endara, Solis, Delgado, and Associates law firm, which served as a primary director and resident agent. He also admitted having empowered a U.S. legal firm with operational responsibility for the corporations. "At no time did we become aware of or participate in the activities of these six corporations," he said.

Endara said that in 1987, as a result of the political crisis, "our client" asked his law firm's board of directors to cease representing them and contracted for another local lawyer because he, Endara, was an important figure in the opposition against the Noriega government.

Endara said: Since 1987, I have had nothing to do with the company [not further identified]; the board of directors has been reshuffled and another resident agent has been designated. He also said that he knows nothing of the firm's ultimate fate and has ceased to participate in its activities, whatever their nature.

"If it is asserted that I am a drug trafficker and money launderer based on those documents disseminated in the Legislative Assembly, then it is slander and I will treat it as such." He went on to say that, at the beginning of his term, U.S. officials asked him for information on the corporations, because there were signs that they were involved in illegal activities.

"Because our client, Juan Acosta, was dead and we were advised that these corporations could be involved in dirty business, I gave all available information to the DEA, on a confidential basis." Endara said that the agreement with the DEA that this information would be confidential has been breached.

With regard to the source of the document presented by Legislator Gonzalez, Endara replied: "The source is surely the United States. I believe that they have broken their pledge to keep this information confidential and secret." He added that he could not say that this represented pressure on his government.

"I believe that the DEA and the U.S. Embassy are one and the same. I was the person contacted. I asked my law associates to cooperate based on the promise that the information would be treated in a confidential manner."

Furthermore, Endara flatly rejected remarks made by PDC legislators and said that he would react blow for blow to attacks from the PDC. "If I am attacked, I will attack them. I will respond to them blow for blow." Endara also accused Panama City Mayor Guillermo Cochez of taking a picture of a car that had been seized, which showed up at the house of presidential adviser Jorge Pacifico Adames.

Endara finally accused the PDC of buying arms. He disseminated among those present at the press conference copies of two letters, one from the mayor's office and the other from the Housing Ministry, requesting authorization to buy a large number of pistols and other arms. "They are the ones who are buying arms," Endara said referring to the members of the PDC.

PDC Says Party To Attack Endara 'Where it Hurts Most'

PA1204164691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1524 GMT
12 Apr 91

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (DPA)— The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] announced today that it will attack President Guillermo Endara "where it hurts most," increasing pressure in order "to bring out in the

open the truth" about the charges involving the president in the establishment of corporations owned by alleged narcotics traffickers.

A document destined for the PDC leaders, which DPA obtained, says that although the charges about "money laundering that upset President Endara so much were not our initiative," but that of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), there is an "obligation to look thoroughly into this issue."

Based on a DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] report, PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez disclosed last week that Endara's law firm had created several corporations for Salvador Magluta and Augusto Falcon, who are Cuban-born U.S. narcotics traffickers.

"There is evidently a lot more behind this issue concerning President Endara," the PDC document points out. The PDC was dropped from the government alliance this week.

The document of the party that is now in the opposition notes that the PDC legislators will undertake "rectifications" concerning the support they gave to the appointment of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz and the approval of Law 25, which allowed the dismissal of over 300 officials who participated in a national strike last December.

The document adds: We are going to show Endara a little "muscle" so he will ask for the resignation of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, will achieve a just balance between payment of the foreign debt and the social debt, and will put an end to the dismissals of the PDC members holding public posts that are not political appointments.

Local, U.S. Authorities Sign Legal Assistance Agreement

PA1104183991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 1755 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement [MLAA] was signed this morning in the presence of President Guillermo Endara, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino, and U.S. Ambassador to Panama Deane Hinton.

The main aim of this agreement, which was the center of discussion throughout the country for the past few months, is to combat laundered money resulting from drug trafficking.

Other government authorities and prominent local businessmen also attended the signing ceremony.

During his speech, Ambassador Deane Hinton voiced optimism about the possible results of the agreement. Meanwhile, President Endara gave his opinion on the MLAA signing:

[Begin Endara recording] We can no longer, the modern world can no longer combat crime unless it does so at an

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international level. This is why we are willing to sign agreements such as these, which are very just and advisable, with the United States, but also with other countries. We have made inroads in this regard with Great Britain and other countries in order to fully participate in this struggle against international crime. The second thing I wanted to say—and I will do so very quickly—is that we just crushed a dictatorial system that, among other things, sponsored international crime. [end recording]

DEA Agent Reportedly Receives Death Threats

PA1104144991 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
11 Apr 91 p 10

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Henchmen at the service of drug traffickers have issued death threats against Ivette Torres, a Panamanian agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), because last week she reported that Panamanian companies and banks are involved in the laundering of drug money.

According to information obtained by this reporter from an official source linked to the Panamanian antinarcotics agencies, the residence of agent Torres, who works in the DEA, was searched by suspected members of a gang of drug traffickers under investigation. The drug traffickers entered her apartment located in a luxurious condominium in the Punta Paitilla neighborhood on 8 April and left a note threatening to kill her.

The henchmen presumably belong to the organization headed by Cuban-North American drug traffickers Augusto Falcon and Salvador Magluta, who were the owners of at least six corporations that were registered in Panama and served as a front for the laundering of drug money. Magluta and Falcon are fugitives from U.S. justice and it has not been ruled out that they could be in some Central American country or Panama.

On Friday, 4 April [date as published], unidentified individuals arrived at the door of the DEA agent's apartment and sprinkled a white powder, presumably cocaine, and left a number of 9-mm bullet shells, a clearly threatening action.

Ivette Torres, who has been working for the DEA for 10 years, is pregnant. In August 1990, she made a sworn statement before a Miami court that is hearing criminal charges against drug traffickers Magluta and Falcon. In the statement, the agent indicated that at least six banks that operate in our country and at least 21 corporations registered in Panama were used to launder drug money from the Falcon-Magluta connection.

The Spanish text of agent Torres' statement was made public by Gerardo Gonzalez, opposition legislator from the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], since President Guillermo Endara was a former partner of the law firm that formed the corporations.

The day after Gonzalez' action, the U.S. Embassy issued a communique lamenting the leaking of the confidential information. Nevertheless, the communique did not state that diplomatic officials had met a week earlier with high-ranking PRD leaders.

The Magluta-Falcon gang is currently the object of a tenacious pursuit by the DEA agents with the cooperation of the Panamanian Attorney General's Office. Agents of the Special Antinarcotics Forces of the Judicial Technical Police have also established strict security measures around agent Torres to prevent any possible attack against her. Meanwhile the DEA is looking for members of the Falcon-Magluta gang who are presumably responsible for the actions against the Panamanian agent of the DEA.

Column Examines Drug Charges

PA0904184491 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 9 Apr 91 p 2A

["Hidden Truths" column by Tomas A. Cabal: The Torres Case]

[Text] Amidst the political commotion that is eating away at the Panamanian nation, the accusation made by Gerardo Gonzalez, legislator and president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], has lost its importance. According to Gonzalez, U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agent Ivette Torres identified a series of Panamanian companies connected with drug trafficking and money laundering. Hernan Delgado, president of the Movement of Unionized Lawyers [MAG], is among the directors of the aforementioned companies. The law firm of the president of the Republic is indirectly related to these companies.

The interesting thing to note is the way in which Legislator Gonzalez obtained a copy of the document in question, a copy of an affidavit given by DEA agent Torres.

The president of the Republic has said, in a news conference, that he and his law firm had fully cooperated with the investigation that the DEA is conducting in the United States. He added that the reports given to the DEA were secretly and confidentially delivered. The president hinted, in his news conference, that the document could only have been leaked by the U.S. Embassy in Panama or the DEA. The U.S. Embassy moved swiftly in denying any responsibility in this matter by stating that no embassy official (including the DEA) had leaked the information. The communique issued by the U.S. Embassy stressed that these leaks may hinder the criminal investigations that are currently taking place in the United States. The U.S. Embassy also emphasized the "cooperation" given by attorney Hernan Delgado regarding the activities of two individuals identified as Falcon and Magluta. According to the DEA, Falcon and Magluta have been laundering large sums of U.S. cocaine profits.

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Reports gathered by our sources indicate that the copy of the Torres report was obtained at the office of the attorney generals, where the file of the Falcon-Magluta investigation is kept. According to the information collected, agent Torres gave an affidavit as part of the criminal investigation that the DEA filed before the attorney general's office. Just as in the case of the Interocanico Bank, the DEA presented the reports and evidence necessary to obtain confidential information to freeze bank accounts allegedly belonging to the Falcon-Magluta criminal organization.

According to a prominent member of the National Bar Association, this in itself is very worrying because an agency of a foreign government is gaining access to confidential documents and reports as a result of a foreign investigation and not due to a measure by the judiciary or Panama's Attorney General's Office. The lawyer told us that, during this process, the principle of presumption of innocence of the accused does not prevent bank accounts from being frozen, or the adoption of precautionary measures even without evidence that Panamanian law has been violated.

U.S. officials in Miami, Florida, have told us that Panamanian authorities rarely ever investigate matters related to money laundering. They stated that, despite the fact that the DEA presented specific reports on accounts and business of a criminal organization led by Colombian Rodriguez Gacha in the case of the Interocanico Bank, the Drug Secretariat of the Attorney General's Office issued a certificate stating that the bank was not currently an object of any investigation by that office.

For the U.S. officials, this is the heart of the matter. In the case of the Interocanico Bank, the U.S. Embassy handed the DEA documents over to a local medium. According to our sources, the information in the Torres case was leaked from the office of the attorney general. The law firm of President Endara appears involved in both cases. This situation is very serious, given the speculation surrounding such sensitive issues as drug trafficking and money laundering.

We hope that after the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, we can find more effective ways to investigate matters related to drug trafficking and money laundering in Panama, without causing political conflicts. These conflicts complicate the efficient functioning of President Endara's administration. It is inconceivable that every time that DEA officials investigate criminal activities in the United States, conflicts and political instability—which adversely affect our international image—take place in Panama.

We believe that there are diplomatic means that can be used by the United States to achieve positive results in the struggle that it is waging against drug trafficking and money laundering, without affecting the reputation of high-ranking figures of our current government. We are confident that, with the cooperation of U.S. Ambassador

Deane Hinton, all matters between Panama and the United States, including such sensitive issue as international drug trafficking, can be successfully resolved. This can be accomplished as long as the attorney general's office fulfills its duty to investigate and punish those responsible for handling this criminal business.

Former PTJ Employee To Be Prosecuted in U.S. Court

PA1104044791 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 10 Apr 91 p 23

[Report by Andres Davila]

[Text] A ranking Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] employee will be prosecuted on drug trafficking charges in a U.S. federal court, a DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agent has told EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE.

The agent, who works undercover and is involved in the much talked-about "Noriega case," did not disclose his identity because certain politicians' interests have made it rather difficult to pursue the lawsuit filed by the DEA.

Our source was able to tell us in advance that the prosecution order on drug-trafficking charges is against Renato Famiglietti, formerly the assistant director of the PTJ. His complicity is suspected in several cases of drug distribution and transfer.

As a preventive measure, [the authorities] have seized Famiglietti's penthouse in the luxurious Punta Paitilla residential neighborhood, as well as other possessions of doubtful origin that could have resulted from his illicit drug dealings, our source said.

"Famiglietti's arrest and due process have been plagued by a certain "sponsorship" by politicians who have attempted to conceal facts which, obviously, cannot be ignored," our source said.

Renato Famiglietti is a well-known figure from the era of the dictatorship, when he worked for the defunct intelligence service, G-2, which came to public attention when the dictatorship's repressiveness peaked. Famiglietti played a key role in inflicting blows on the "Civic Crusade." In one specific case, civic crusader Aurelio Barria was savagely tortured and abused at the former Balboa headquarters, and was then taken by Famiglietti himself—handcuffed and blindfolded—to Tocumen Airport and exile.

From another point of view, some observers agree that the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) has not been signed by the Panamanian side because its main point is an extradition agreement for every citizen involved in drug trafficking, "and there are certain people who would be immediately transferred once the treaty is signed," the agent said.

To conclude, the source said that there is a certain "narco-bourgeoisie" who could say a lot about drug

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trafficking in Panama, but who have failed to do so because their statements would harm certain interests, the DEA agent said.

Police Seize 199 Kg of Cocaine 10 Apr

PA1404173191 Panama City *CRITICA LIBRE*
in Spanish 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 28

[Excerpts] The National Police yesterday confiscated 199 kg of cocaine hidden inside four 100-pound gas tanks that were being taken from Portobelo in Colon Province to Panama City. A stolen red Nissan pick-up truck, with private license plate number 8-09878, was seen speeding through the town of Portobelo carrying four gas tanks, raising the suspicion of police agents assigned to this area, who began to pursue it.

The drug traffickers must have realized they were being followed because they abandoned their vehicle on the Trans-Isthmian Highway near the Nuevo Colon neighborhood and fled.

Cosme Moreno, Colon's 4th Circuit Court prosecutor, and Major Ricardo Guardia, director of the Colon police zone, inspected the gas tanks and found the cocaine shipment, which has a value of over \$7 million in the drug market. [passage omitted]

Subsequent investigations indicate the drug was offloaded in Nombre de Dios Port by a Colombian vessel that was purportedly carrying coconuts.

PARAGUAY**Antinarcotics Chief on Operations, Prospects**

PY1204001291 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Apr 91
p 24

[Text] General Marcial David Samaniego, coordinator of the Narcotics Directorate (Dinar), told HOY yesterday that a special force burned 36,000 marijuana plants in Jasuka Venda, the sacred land of the Pai Tavytera Indians, in Amambay Department. The special force was trained by the U.S. Army, and this was its first assignment. We will launch an offensive against drug traffickers, Samaniego said. This is the interview with the general:

[HOY] General, could you tell us about Dinar's operation in Jasuka Venda, the Pai Tavytera Indian sacred lands?

[Samaniego] Yes, the Narcotics Directorate is responsible for the repression of dangerous drugs, and one of its missions is the destruction of marijuana plantations. A special force made up of Army and police officers was trained to that end by U.S. Special Forces. The operation in Jasuka Venda (Cerro Guazu) was one of our first missions after the training period. The special force was able to destroy more than 10 hectares of marijuana plantations; that is, nearly 36,000 plants. The special force also found two camps and 500 kg of marijuana

already processed and ready for the press. They also found 4 kg of seeds. The force found people harvesting marijuana but they were able to escape. The special force tried to get them to surrender by firing shots into the air but failed and they escaped.

[HOY] Did the Dinar find out who were responsible for planting the marijuana?

[Samaniego] In the camp we found food belonging to traffickers: beans, rice, oil, etc. It is obvious that they are Brazilians. Paraguayans might also be involved but the majority of those working the field were Brazilians. They escaped during the operation but they left behind various documents. We will try to find out where are they from to see if we can capture them to obtain more information. That would be ideal.

[HOY] What does the Dinar suspect is happening after the discovery in Cerro Guazu, considering that the area in question is still in the name of Brazilian citizens?

[Samaniego] It seems that the owners are not involved. These are independent plantations. These traffickers come from somewhere else. They look for an inhospitable place to sow and harvest. Then they leave again. Perhaps the owner does not even know about it. In many cases owners do not know that someone is cultivating their land. But in many cases they are aware of what is happening but do not report it. We have to assume that they are involved if they do not report anything. This time we think that they probably do not know what was happening on their land.

[HOY] Does the fact that the operation began at Cerro Guazu mean that the first reports received mentioned this plantation?

[Samaniego] No. As a matter of fact, we know the locations of some 200 plantations in the Amambay Region. Therefore, we did not have to wait for reports on them. We had overflown these plantations and photographed them, and we already knew exactly where they were. What we did now, however, was how to reach the plantation by land and destroy it. Instead of spraying it from the air, we went there by land because this method proved to be more effective and because this way we can also arrest people and obtain more information. It is definitely a more effective method.

[HOY] Although the government had already declared an open war on drug trafficking, can we say that this special group begins a new stage that can make the fight more effective?

[Samaniego] Exactly. This is a new special force, and this was its first operation. If we have continued support, we will surely destroy more plantations in other places.

[HOY] General, haven't you received reports on plantations in the Mbaracayu Mountains?

[Samaniego] Yes, we have received reports on that from the World Bank. We will also conduct operations at that region, but so far we still have no means of reaching all plantations.

[HOY] Does the fact that the Dinar special support force has been trained by U.S. experts mean that the U.S. Government has confirmed its decision to fight drug trafficking in our country?

[Samaniego] Yes, it does, but the U.S. Government wants us to prove that we are willing to fight drug trafficking. Maybe this was not clear before and, as a result, the U.S. Government gave us less support.

[HOY] Considering that our borders are afflicted with other scourges such as smuggling and criminality and that we also have social problems such as land occupation, do you believe this special force will also intervene in these problems?

[Samaniego] The special force has been created specifically to fight drug trafficking. This includes burning marijuana plantations, controlling highways and roads, and controlling and registering weapons. The group will not dedicate itself to anything else because these other problems are the responsibility of other groups. The Dinar and its special force are only dedicated to the antidrug fight.

[HOY] Again referring to the Cerro Guazu issue, can the residents of the Pai Tavytera Project now enter the settlement to measure the land without problems?

[Samaniego] I believe there are no more people planting marijuana at the place any more. It is really dangerous to enter these plantations without being especially careful because the people in charge of them are always armed.

[HOY] Concluding, can we say that a new stage in the war against the marijuana planters has started?

[Samaniego] Yes, we can say that because this is the first time the well-trained special force has gone into action. From now on, the force will be fully dedicated to that fight.

Police Burn 6 Tonnes of Marijuana

PY1104210091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
11 Apr 91 p 19

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning the police burned about six tonnes of marijuana plants during an operation ordered by a court in a place known as Rincon de Julio, formerly known as Cafetalera Cue, in Amambay Department. The marijuana traffickers were able, however, to save about 12 tonnes of marijuana by harvesting the plantations before the police arrived.

The narcotics agents were planning to destroy about nine marijuana plantations—each capable of producing about

two tonnes—in the jungle at Rincon de Julio, which is 45 km from Pedro Juan Caballero on the road to Capitan Bado. [passage omitted]

The officials who participated in the operation were judge Arnaldo Diaz Lopez of Pedro Juan Caballero, prosecutor Evelio Osber, secretary Candido Insfran, members of the Dinar [National Narcotics Directorate] 1st Regional Office, and officials of the Amambay Department.

The officials were surprised to find that a large part of the marijuana plantations had already been harvested.

Six of the nine marijuana plantations were poorly harvested presumably by hand when the traffickers apparently learned about the police operation. They presumably worked throughout the night of 9 April and early on the morning of 10 April to save the "merchandise." The marijuana traffickers took approximately 12 tonnes of marijuana.

What the officials found were six lots of marijuana plants weighing about six tonnes, which were burned by the police after checking the surrounding area.

The officials found that the plantations were under large trees in the forest, which prevented them from being seen from the air. [passage omitted]

Drug Trafficking, Rehabilitation Law To Be Revised

PY0504205891 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 5 Apr 91 p 6

[Excerpt] The government is updating the law that represses the trafficking of dangerous drugs and that establishes preventive and rehabilitation measures for drug addicts. At the initiative of the Interior Ministry, official organizations on 4 April began drafting a bill that will reform the current law and specify other crimes as part of a coordinated preventive action.

On 5 April, government organizations began to undertake action with an eye to drafting a bill that will update Law No. 1340, which represses the illegal trafficking of dangerous drugs and that establishes preventive and rehabilitation measures for drug addicts. [passage omitted]

Strengthening of Antinarcotics Law Under Study

PY0904230091 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
9 Apr 91 p 27

[Excerpt] The amplification of Law No. 1340 on suppressing illegal drug trafficking even contemplates control of diplomatic bags. It will also implement the requirement to control ships operating at our ports, including divers to check what ships have below their water line.

In addition to the broad operation of suppression of drug-trafficking activities that began last weekend, the subcommittees studying the amendment of Law No.

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1340 have been advancing proposals to introduce into this law aspects involving the control of persons and objects entering or departing our country through various points.

According to sources contacted by ULTIMA HORA, the improvements sought involve the control of diplomatic bags, air mail, and other cargo in order to avoid friction with foreign missions as the sniffer dogs do not recognize diplomatic status when they are released to do the work for which they were trained. [passage omitted]

PERU

Spanish Delegation Offers Cooperation in Drug Fight

PY1004161291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1310 GMT
10 Apr 91

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (EFE)—Rafael Vera, Spain's secretary for security matters, said today that his country is willing to cooperate with the Andean countries in the fight against international drug trafficking and to support the antidrug initiatives of the EC.

The high-ranking Spanish official who is in Lima on an official visit, told Spanish reporters that the United States "is interested in seeing the EC take an active part" in the Andes antidrug policy by offering special assistance to coca growers through development aid and crop alternatives. There are some 250,000 peasant families involved in growing coca in Bolivia and Peru.

Vera said the EC understands the position of the coca-producing countries better than the United States and accepts the fact that the solution of these countries' drug-trafficking problems depends more on economic help than on repression.

He added that the EC countries have influenced the United States to change its antidrug doctrine for Peru, which was "entirely repressive." Peru is responsible for 60 percent of the world's coca production. Bolivia is the source of 30 percent of the production, and Colombia is home to the drug- trafficking "cartels."

Vera said Bolivia and Peru, which have or are negotiating antidrug agreements with the United States, should also request the assistance of the EC, where nearly 20 percent of the cocaine being trafficked worldwide ends up. In 1991 this 20 percent translated into some 90,000 kg.

Vera denied that Spain is planning to cooperate in the antiterrorist fight in Peru, although he explained that "if we help the country develop, overcome misery, and put an end to the terrorists' financial source of drug trafficking, we will be contributing to the eradication of terrorism."

Peruvian experts believe that the antidrug fight includes the eradication of the Shining Path guerrillas (Maoist)

and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (Guevarist), which are fighting for control of the coca-growing valleys in the lower areas of the Andean region.

Vera said: "Spain will present to the EC and defend before it the importance of the development program in the reduction of drug trafficking in the Andean countries."

He said the U.S. experts responsible for the antidrug fight "are aware of their difficulties and negative image" and have recently asked Spain to "act as a bridge" in contacts with the coca-producing countries and to help introduce aid and development assistance in the anti-drug policy.

He added that, although the aid to be granted has yet to be defined, Spain can better cooperate with Peru by transferring new police technologies, providing expert training in narcotics, and rendering assistance in public order matters.

A Peruvian commission will visit Spain in the next two months to study the areas of cooperation, he said.

Vera is heading a delegation of eight high-ranking officials from the Spanish security services that is touring Chile, Peru, and Nicaragua.

Leftist Parties Ask Congress To Reject Antidrug Agreement

PY0804231891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT
8 Apr 91

[Text] Lima, 7 Apr (EFE)—Today some 20 leftist parties asked the Congress to reject the decision to sign an antidrug agreement with the United States because the agreement grants the United States "fundamental rights" that would harm Peruvian sovereignty.

The 24 centers for promotion and development, which are considered the spokesmen for peasant sectors and for institutions that "have expressed their rejection of the content" and "the way in which the agreement is being prepared," fear that the agreement will internationalize the Peruvian domestic conflict.

The signatories of a communique published today by Lima newspapers express their opinion that the agreement "allows the U.S. Government to intervene not only in the training of the Peruvian Armed Forces and police for the antidrug fight, but also in the antiterrorist fight."

Based on this opinion, they ask Congress to reject the decision to sign the agreement since Peruvian law gives Congress the last word before the government signs any international agreement.

On 6 April, U.S. Ambassador to Lima Anthony Quainton denied that U.S. military would come to Peru to fight drug trafficking or the guerrillas, and he added that U.S. cooperation will be exclusively in the economic field.

Quanton commented on the agreement during a visit to the Andean Province of Huancayo, 315 km southeast of Lima, and he asserted that its text clearly explains that the United States will only grant Peru economic support and that there is "absolutely" no possibility that U.S. military contingents will come to Peru "to fight these scourges (drugs and terrorism)."

The left-leaning promotion and development groups have asserted that "the agreement establishes a political association between the U.S. and Peruvian Governments."

The communique adds that the United States "directly participates in the definition and implementation of significant national policies such as short-term economic policies, structural adjustment, internal security, pacification, and the definition of the framework for the activities of the Armed Forces, the police, and the judicial branch."

President Alberto Fujimori, who is in Japan, will visit the United States next week to talk with President George Bush. They will probably discuss the agreement which was to have been signed last October.

Peru, which produces 60 percent of the world's coca, is the largest supplier of coca for making cocaine base from which cocaine is refined.

According to Peruvian economic experts, drug trafficking activities move at least \$1.8 billion a year, which is more than 50 percent of Peruvian exports.

Export Group Says Coca Brings in \$2.4 Billion Annually

*PY1404203091 Madrid EFE in English 1637 GMT
14 Apr 91*

[Text] Lima, April 14 (EFE)—Drug-trafficking brings in at least 2.4 billion dollars a year to Peru, equivalent to 70 percent of the country's exports, the president of the Association of Exporters (ADEX) said Sunday. The laundering of the drug money seriously affected the country's exchange system, added ADEX president Gaston Benza.

Peru is the world's biggest producer of coca, the leaf used to make cocaine. Much of the cocaine is processed from the Peruvian raw materials in neighboring Colombia, from where it is sent to the United States and Western Europe.

Some 200,000 Peruvian peasants grow the coca plant, and more than one million people in this impoverished Andean country are believed to be involved in the drug trade.

URUGUAY

Extradition Trial of Cuban Drug Trafficker Begins

*PY1404000291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0838 GMT
13 Apr 91*

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Maldonado (Uruguay), 13 Apr (EFE)—The Uruguayan courts have begun a trial to decide on the extradition to Spain or the United States of a Cuban citizen who is believed to be a key man in the "Argentine link" of a drug-trafficking ring and who is protecting himself under the "right to remain silent" established by national law.

Ramon Puente Patino or Jose Lezcano Patino, 54, according to the two bona fide Panamanian and U.S. passports he had on 19 February when he was detained, is involved in the "laundering" of large amounts of money coming from drug- trafficking activities, according to a number of charges received in Uruguay.

The arrest took place in the posh beach resort of Punta del Este after the receipt of a petition from Spanish officials, who are accusing him of financing a shipment of 530 kg of cocaine found aboard a ship near Cape Verde off the African coast.

After his arrest, the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] also filed a petition for his extradition and accused Puente Patino, through diplomatic channels, of introducing 20 tons of cocaine into the United States and of laundering about \$8 billion, a figure that exceeds by \$2 billion Uruguay's total foreign debt, which is one of the world's largest per capita debts.

On Friday [12 April], Puente Patino was taken from a high security penitentiary in Montevideo to Maldonado, where the court has jurisdiction for the place where he was detained. In Maldonado, 147 km from Montevideo, the Cuban citizen and naturalized Panamanian citizen attended the first session of the trial. The session lasted about two hours.

After listening to the charges filed by Madrid, through a proceeding brought by Judge Baltasar Garzan of Central Court 5 of the Spanish national courts, and by the U.S. DEA, Puente Patino remained silent so his words could not be used against him.

After reviewing the long proceedings papers, Uruguayan attorney Victor Della Valle, who is defending Puente Patino, availed himself of the law giving him three working days to answer the charges against his client in writing.

With the opinion of the prosecutor, who has already filed his report, and the defendant's answer, which will be presented next Wednesday, Judge Gabriel Adiazola, of the Maldonado 2d Criminal Court, will be able to pass judgment. After the lower court ruling, the prosecutor or the defendant, through his attorney, can appeal the

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ruling and the proceedings will then be transferred to the Appellate Court in Montevideo.

After the hearing, Judge Adriaola reported the legal steps to journalists, but did not provide any details of the charges asking for the extradition of Puente Patino.

The movements of the defendant, a person who physically appears to be older than the 54 years noted in his passport, were monitored today by a substantial deployment of security personnel. The police used a military helicopter to transport him from Montevideo to Maldonado. Journalists noted the presence of a team from the Department of Special Operations (DOE), which highlights the authorities concern and zeal for the detainee's security.

Police sources have emphasized the "great responsibility" of the services to protect a foreigner who has been described as a key man in the investigation of drug-trafficking activities linking Colombia with Europe through the River Plate.

The investigators understand that Puente Patino may have been sentenced to death by his associates. The isolation of the Cuban and the continuous changes in the places where he is being held point to the fact that there may be many people who "would like to silence him forever."

The Spanish courts have tied Puente Patino to the in-laws of Argentine President Carlos Menem. Amira Yoma, the Argentine president's sister-in-law and his appointments secretary; and her husband, Ibrahim al-Ibrahim, a former customs officer in Buenos Aires; are being investigated by Argentine Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria in connection with the money laundering in which Puente Patino is reportedly involved.

Carlos Caserta, a former Menem government official, was indicted last week by the Argentine judge, who could add her own petition to the Spanish and U.S. extradition petitions for Puente Patino.

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INDIA

Tangier Customs Seizes Drugs From Dutch Meat Truck

91P40214A Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 20 Mar 91 p 5

[Report by Abu 'Ayman]

[Text] Tangier—For the second time, customs officials in the port of Tangier have been able, by chance, to lay their hands on a huge drug shipment. The shipment was estimated to be 1,650 kg of 'ajin (cannabis concentrate) on a Dutch truck used to transport frozen meat.

The drugs were valued at approximately 7 billion centimes on the Dutch market and 1.65 billion centimes on the local market. Customs officials at the port of Tangier discovered the drugs during a routine operation to confirm the nature of merchandise for export.

According to information we obtained from sources at the port, a Dutch citizen called Wilmer (Jijst) William Marja used documentation from one of the fish exporters at the port of Tangier. He contracted with the exporter to buy and export frozen fish and sent him to Agadir to buy 460 boxes of frozen sardines. He was to pack and transport the sardines to the port of Tangier and then export them directly to Holland via a confiscated refrigerator truck with the license plate number GY 33 ZS. On the night of 9 April, the truck driver surprised the Moroccan exporter by taking the truck to a site in the industrial area on the Tetouan road. There the owners of the goods showed up and loaded the goods with the help of some masked men, among them French, Dutch, and Moroccans who are now at large. From there, the truck returned to port to await a customs license.

EGYPT

Kuwaiti National Seized for Heroin Trafficking

NC1404061191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT
13 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Today counternarcotics organs arrested Shaykh Talal Nasir al-Sabah, found 1 kg of heroin in his possession. He and a Syrian partner named 'Abdu Muhammad Na'im intended to traffic this heroin. [passage omitted]

Information received by the Counternarcotics General Administration indicated that a rich Kuwaiti frequently visits Cairo and spends liberally on his pleasures and entertainment. Investigations showed that this rich Kuwaiti is Shaykh Talal Nasir al-Sabah, a heroin addict who trafficks in drugs to pay for his excessive expenditures. [passage omitted]

'Big Time' Smuggler Caught in Bombay

91WD0638A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 23 Mar 91 p 5

[Text] Bombay, 22 March—The interception of a car unexpectedly led to the arrest of Abujafar Abubakar Bakshi alias Murgiwalla alleged to be a big time smuggler of narcotics and the seizure of 535 kg of high quality Afghani hashish, the largest haul since 1985 by officers of the narcotic cell of the Bombay police. The haul was worth Rs[rupees]32 lakh (local value).

Murgiwalla's movements were being monitored by the police after he had managed to evade a police dragnet in which some of his associates were caught by the cell.

The hunt began after the arrest of two Pakistani drug traffickers in February by inspector Pawar and sub-inspector Kachare near the Open House Restaurant, Juhu Tara Road. Yet another man from the gang was arrested soon after and interrogations of the three led the police to Murgiwalla's poultry farm in Karjat where 30 kg of heroin and 10 kg of hashish were seized. Murgiwalla, however, managed to escape.

The Bellasis road flat of Murgiwalla was then raided and five kg of heroin was seized. The police learnt that Murgiwalla still had a large part of the hashish consignment smuggled from Pakistan with him, which he was trying to shift to some godowns near the Maharashtra weight bridge, L.B.S. road, Sion.

A team comprising inspectors Shrivastava, Pawar and sub-inspector Kachare, Nigade and Naikwadi kept a watch for the consignment.

One evening, at around 5 p.m., they saw an old Ambassador stopping near the Weigh bridge and surrounded it. The driver was held. It was Murgiwalla himself.

A search of the car revealed the hashish wrapped in gunny bags with the usual protection of cellophane paper.

Bombay Police Burn Tonnes of Narcotics

91WD0640A Bombay THE SUNDAY TIMES OF
INDIA in English 17 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Bombay, 16 March—Over three tonnes of drugs were consigned to the flames today by the narcotics cell of the Bombay police, in what was claimed to be the largest operation of its kind in the whole country.

The drugs were burnt in 25 separate bonfires on the promontory at Reti Bunder in Sewri this afternoon. About 150 kg of the drugs were destroyed in each fire.

Shortly after low tide commenced at around 12.15 p.m. this afternoon, a group of over 100 cadets from the Marol police training school filed onto the promontory

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and took up positions preparatory to passing kindling and firewood down the queue to the bonfires.

According to the DCP [Deputy Commissioner of Police] (narcotics), Mr Rahul Rai Sur, who was supervising operations, the site had been selected so that the prevailing wind currents would carry the fumes out to sea.

"Also, tonight is new moon night, which means much lower tides than usual," he said, explaining the choice of day.

A total of 3,325.71 kg of drugs was burnt today. This included 652 kg of heroin, 1,447 kg of hashish, 586 kg of ganja, 177 kg of bhang, 363 kg of mandrax (in tablet form), one kg each of morphine and cocaine, 21.7 kg of methanqualone, six kg of opium and 72 kg of various other kinds of intoxicating agents.

Due to the sheer quantity of the drugs, the cell had to overcome several problems, not least among these complying with the procedures to be followed prior to the pre-trial destruction.

Each police station in the city had to obtain the necessary permission by applying to the special judge or the special court. Samples of the seizures were then taken out by each police station in the presence of special metropolitan magistrates, and photographed.

Then, each station took the drugs to the narcotics cell, as per a previously worked-out schedule. Here the relevant documents were all scrutinised by a team appointed for the purpose, and then re-packed for destruction.

This yielded 113 jute gunny bags, burnt at Sewri this afternoon, though the first continued long into the evening, with Mr Sur keeping watch at the site. In the sea off the shore, a number of police launches were deployed to keep curious fishermen away from the site. Also in readiness were the breathing apparatus van of the fire brigade and a fire engineer to put out the embers after the first had burnt down.

The drugs burnt today consisted of seizures made during the last four years. These include a February 1990 record haul of 396 kg of heroin from near the Parel veterinary hospital, 194 kg of hashish recovered from the house of one Niranjana Singh Bhullar, presently detained in jail under the PITNDPS [expansion not given] Act, and 32 kg of heroin seized in July last year from three Pathans, alleged to be smugglers.

Also included were 540 kg of hashish recovered by the Matunga police in 1986, another 148 kg recovered the following year at Vikhroli and 160 kg of mandrax tablets, also seized in 1987, by the Sakinaka police.

Police Drug-Pilfering Problems Noted

91WD0639A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 19 Mar 91 p 5

[Text] Bombay, 18 March—An inquiry into the disappearance of 40 kg of first class heroin stored in the D.N. Nagar police station has been ordered by the police commissioner, Mr S. Ramamurthi.

The missing drug packets stored in four trunks were discovered during stock-taking done by the chief of the narcotic cell, Mr Rahul Rai Sur, deputy commissioner, before burning more than four tonnes of heroin on Saturday at Sewree.

The stock-taking began on Tuesday and drugs seized by various police stations were checked at Random before taking them to the Cell office situated at police headquarters at Crawford Market, the police said. The drugs were then taken to Sewree where they were burnt.

During the stock-taking at the D.N. Nagar police station, officers of the Cell smelt and tasted drugs from packets at random and found some packets had been interchanged. A thorough check done after this discovery revealed the missing drugs.

According to Mr Sur the main reason for the loss of the drugs was the very long time they were kept at the police station. The drugs were part of a huge seizure done some years ago when inspector R.V. Chougule was senior inspector at the police station. The drugs were kept in his personal custody which is the routine procedure laid down in such cases. Since then there have been two other inspectors who have become senior inspectors after Mr Chougule, Mr Sur said.

"The only way to put a stop to such incident is to burn and dispose of the drugs," Mr Sur pointed out.

According to available statistics there are at least three to four tonnes of drugs lying in various police stations and the Cell office to date.

The problem of policemen involving themselves in drug pilfering or stealing first came to light when last year the narcotic cell had to take action against two constables of the cell who were involved in alleged pilfering of drugs seized and stored.

A head constable was also suspended in January this year on charges of trying to sell of drugs seized by the police at the Sahar international airport, it was learnt.

Two small time thieves managed to steal drugs kept in a room at the Mazagaon magisterial court, early this year. The two were, however, arrested in the process of selling off the drugs at night near the V.T. Railway station recently.

With no proper storage facilities in the police stations, lack of security and absence of a centralised godown [warehouse] the drugs, with their remarkable reputation as the most profitable and fast moving contraband

available, are an unavoidable attraction for criminals and policemen alike, it is felt.

Meanwhile the Cell chief, Mr Sur, has been appointed to head the enquiry. According to sources his main problem will be to trace the culprits and their receivers who must have by now sold the drugs off. Whether the drugs were stolen by policemen or criminals has yet to be conclusively established.

Reliable sources said that the trunks were sealed and signed on by three officers then posted at D.N. Nagar police station. They were senior inspector Chougule who is now senior inspector of the Kandivli police station, inspector Rafique Shaikh now senior inspector of Unit IX of crime branch and sub inspector Kumbhar now at the Kandivli police station. It was learnt that inquiry officers had recorded statements of all the three officers.

IRAN

ESCAP Approves Iranian Proposals for Combating Narcotics

91WD05294 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Five Iranian proposals for combating narcotics were ratified by the Asian and Pacific countries.

The regional organization of ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], affiliated with the economic and social council of the United Nations, termed the actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran successful in combating narcotics addiction.

In a meeting to investigate narcotics and addiction held in late Bahman [February] in Tokyo, this organization also congratulated Iran for preventing the cultivation of poppies and the production of narcotics.

According to a report by the public relations office of the antinarcotics headquarters, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented a report at the ESCAP meeting on effective and successful methods of addict rehabilitation and the prevention of addiction.

In this report, which was of interest to various international agencies and member countries, the major factors in the increase in production and transportation of narcotics in the Golden Triangle and Crescent area were identified.

The delegation to this meeting represented 42 Asian and Pacific countries in addition to France, Italy, England, the Soviet Union and several international agencies affiliated with the United Nations. For the first time such a meeting was devoted to discussions on the situation with regard to narcotics smuggling and its effect on the exit of foreign currency in Asian and Pacific countries. In this meeting, the production of narcotics in the Golden Triangle and Crescent region, its transportation to other countries as well as ways to rehabilitate addicts and prevent addiction were also examined.

In this meeting, the Iranian delegation explained the effective role of our country in preventing the production and transport of narcotics in the South Asian region. The delegation sent by the antinarcotics headquarters of our country also reported on the actions and favorable results of this headquarters in the past two years and pointed out: The successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved to the world the fact that if a government has the motivation and takes basic steps to prevent the production of narcotics and addiction, it will certainly succeed.

The Iranian delegation also said: On the same basis, the material published by some countries stating that the prevention of narcotics production, smuggling and consumption is impossible is incorrect. It is, in fact, commensurate with support for the international and mafia narcotics networks. Based on this report, the views and reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented in the specialized committees by the Iranian delegation were included in detail in the summation report of the meeting.

The Iranian delegation to the ESCAP meeting presented the following proposals in the concluding session, which were ratified:

1. The establishment of a specialized regional information center for the countries of the Golden Triangle and Crescent region to identify the poppy cultivation centers and laboratories and the key elements of narcotics production and transportation.
2. A plan for governments to use the people from every country to participate in combatting narcotics and addiction, considering the successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard.
3. The establishment of a joint task force by the countries in the major regions of production and transportation of narcotics, with the cooperation of various divisions of the United Nations.
4. The strengthening of the antinarcotics and addiction laws in all the countries of the region.
5. The strengthening of research regarding the impetus for addiction and ways to prevent it as well as finding a joint solution to cure addiction, especially a method that does not rely on the use of drugs.

Iran Exported 63 Tonnes of Confiscated Drugs

TA0804084291 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] We have learned that the Islamic Republic has exported secret shipments of more than 63 tonnes of drugs, including heroin, opium, and morphine, which it claims to have seized from drug traffickers, for sale abroad. The Islamic Republic has also placed some of these drugs at the disposal of medical companies abroad for medical use. In order to cover its expenses, the Islamic Revolution Committee also distributes some of

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the confiscated drugs among addicts and minor drug-trafficking bands through domestic middlemen.

9 Drug-Production, Distribution Networks Dismantled

WAI504151591

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT on 5 Apr reported that through the extensive efforts of the security forces across the country, in the first half of Farvardin [Iranian month beginning 21 March] nine drug production and distribution networks in Tehran, Mashhad, Bakhtaran, Rasht, and Khorram-Abad were identified and their active members, along with a large amount of drugs, were arrested.

According to a report by the Central News Unit in Tehran Province, the antinarcotics and addiction officers were successful in breaking one of the important drug-production and distribution gangs, which used to import the drugs from the eastern part of the country and distribute them to other parts. The officers seized more than 26 kg of hashish and opium. According to the report, as a result of breaking up nine large groups of drug producers and distributors, more than 880 kg of assorted drugs and five military firearms were discovered. In addition, 540 merchants of death and 650 addicts from across the country were identified and arrested.

ISRAEL

Antidrug War Budget Doubled, Tel Aviv Dealers Arrested

TA1304073891

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem—THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 Apr, Lea Levavi writing on page 2 reports that, speaking at the opening of a residential drug-treatment center at Ilanot in the Sharon yesterday, Health Minister Ehud Olmert said that "the Ministry of Health has this year doubled its budget allocation for the fight against drug abuse." Olmert did not stipulate the amount of the allocation, but Beni Arad, director of the government's Antidrug Authority, last month said "14 million Israeli shekels had been budgeted."

Another report by Michael Rotem on the same page notes that "39 suspected drug dealers, including the leaders of four gangs, were arrested yesterday in a predawn raid by 100 detectives" in the Tel Aviv area.

"The arrests of the alleged 'senior heroin and cocaine importers and traffickers' was the result of a five-month investigation, which involved a female undercover agent."

"Police also seized 82 grams of heroin, 25,000 Israeli shekels in cash, gold, jewels, and small amounts of hashish and marijuana."

The leader of one gang, which operated in north Tel Aviv, employed a network of young women to distribute heroin and cocaine he reportedly imported from Europe. Another ring operated in old Yafo, and specialized in importing drugs from Lebanon. The third gang operated in Yafo and specialized in cocaine. The fourth ring operated in Yafo's blue-collar Fiqus neighborhood.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 8 Apr reports that in the Tel Aviv area, "37 drug dealers were arrested this morning." An undercover agent helped detect the dealers, who operated in Tel Aviv and Yafo. "The ring was led by two criminals who for many years has been imprisoned in Germany."

Cocaine Seized, Clean-Up Facility Opens, Data on Abuse

TA0604064591

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDOT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 3 April, in a report by Ayelet Mazor on page 5, says that "a 34-year-old woman from Ofakim, who carried eight units of cocaine weighing 1.4 grams for her husband," was brought before a Beersheba judge together with her husband yesterday. "The police want them detained for 10 days on suspicion of drug dealing."

An ITIM report on page 6 of the same issue of YEDOT AHARONOT, says that a new community for drug rehabilitation was inaugurated yesterday at Ilanot. It accommodates 15 addicts in the final stages of rehabilitation. The concept behind Ilanot is based on "autonomous community life, with the emphasis on rehabilitation without placebos or medication. All the patients come of their own volition and initiative, and fight their addiction by themselves. The rehabilitation takes approximately 18 months, and only after six months are the patients allowed to leave the premises on furlough. By year's end, 75 addicts will be able to join the facility, and a special ward will be built for women who will undergo the process together with their children."

"A special mobile antidrug educational unit will start circulating among the schools and other educational institutions beginning next month. It will be equipped with a VCR, tapes, and other material."

"Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is the chairman of the Antidrug Authority, reported today that there are 200,000 people in Israel who use drugs, 40,000 of them are addicts, and 15,000 of them are addicted to hard drugs." Rubinstein reported that "the cabinet allocated 14 million shekels this year to combat drugs."

PAKISTAN

Police Raid Minister's House To Arrest Drug Suspect

BK1104070591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] Quetta, April 9—A PNCB (Pakistan Narcotics Control Board) team along with a heavy contingent of

BRP (Balochistan Reserve Police) cordoned off the residence of provincial Health Minister Mir Israrullah Zehri for two and half hours and demanded the arrest of Mir Asim Kurd alias Gailoo, a Jamhuri Watam Partyn MPA [member of Provincial Assembly] who was present in the house of the minister at the time of police action.

According to PNCB officials, Mir Asim Kurd is wanted in a non-bailable case registered against him on January 4, 1991, under section 3/4/26 of Prohibition of Narcotics Order 1979. They got the non-bailable warrant of the accused on April 8, in the above case (No-1/S/91) from the court of sessions judge Quetta. Today, at 11.30 a.m. the police party confronted him at joint road near the house of the said minister and tried to arrest him but he left his vehicle on the road and ran into the house of the Health Minister.

Later the Health Minister came outside and told the chasing party that Mir Asim Kurd was given shelter in accordance with Balochi traditions, and demanded the withdrawal of police encircling his residence.

The Regional Director PNCB Mohammad Umar, while giving details of the incident, said we could not arrest the peddler due to the withdrawal of BRP on the instruction of Balochistan government.

Mohammad Umar said the PNCB were tipped from reliable sources that Mir Asim Kurd had allegedly planned to smuggle five hundred kilograms of heroin on Tuesday. He further alleged that heroin was hidden in the secret cavities of Mir Kurd's land cruiser. He also said that Mir Asim Kurd was involved in the killing of five and kidnapping of seven sepoy of FC (Frontier Corps) in December last year at Baghicha Gul Mohammad near Kirtka village in district Chaghi.

He said following the bloody incident the FC officials unearthed the den of smugglers and recovered narcotics and ammunition. From the bags of narcotics the investigation team found a .223, USA-made rifle with its original licence, whose bearer is Mir Asim Kurd. He said it is an ample proof of his involvement in smuggling. He showed the photo copy of licence (No-M-4106) issued on August 3, 1987 by the court of a district magistrate Karachi, in the name of Mir Asim Kurd.

He said today the accused and his other accomplices riding on two vehicles were armed with sophisticated arms, G-3, grenades and rocket launchers while the team of PNCB had with them obsolete weapons. He said with these our team could not arrest the well armed Kurd and his colleagues.

The Health Minister Mir Israrullah Zehri has accused the Chief Secretary Balochistan for masterminding the 'cordon off' of his residence and blamed him for conspiring against the coalition set-up in province. During a hurriedly called press conference at his residence he flayed the bureaucracy for creating law and order problem in the province. He said the Chief Secretary and

his bureaucratic lobby is bent upon destabilising the provincial government on every feasible pretext.

Mr. Israrullah said neither Chief Minister nor Home Minister were aware about the police raid at his residence. He said one policeman even tried to shoot him, but fortunately the magistrate came to his rescue. He demanded that the Chief Secretary should be sent back to centre. He accused the bureaucracy of provoking tribes to create law and order problem.

On the occasion the Local Bodies Minister Sardar Sana Ullah Zehri said, if bureaucracy can harass the minister, then you can judge the position of the poor.

However Home Minister Zulfikar Magsi told newsmen that it was a legal procedure, "we cannot interfere in the matter of court". He said, when local bodies minister approached him, he ordered the withdrawal of police.

Paper Reports Big Narcotics Haul

BK0804144691 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Karachi, April—Customs Drug Enforcement Cell (DEC) made year's largest seizure of hashish following seizure of a container carrying 1,980 kgs of contraband in its welded false portion wall at Export Yard of the Port area on Sunday [sentence as published].

The container was destined for Germany via Rotterdam port. A case of smuggling has been registered but no arrest was reported. However, some suspects have been picked up for questioning.

On a tip off that some drugs would be smuggled out to Europe and USA along with normal trade consignments the Customs Anti-Smuggling agencies including the Drug Enforcement Cell sleuths were mobilised to monitor movement of "suspected" containers and scrutinise shipping documents closely.

Subsequently, a team led by Assistant Collector (Headquarters) Samee Babar learnt that a firm Mls Amber Enterprise [name as published] had requisitioned a 20-foot-long container for the export of bathrobes to Europe from Mls G.A.C. Container Yard.

The shippers unidentified obtained the Evergreen container and took it out of the port on a truck (LS-1055) [sentence as published]. The truck was followed by Customs sleuths. The truck covered 15 km in about 10 hours, frequently making long stops en route till it disappeared at Manghopir Road into densely populated area of Orangi Township. The watch was, therefore, given up to maintain secrecy of the chase. The same truck was again sighted at Mauripur Truck Stand on April 4 where close watch was not also possible.

Meanwhile, it transpired that the same shipper had obtained another Evergreen container from same yard. It was not shadowed. However, a team of DEC officials was posted at the NOB Gate to wait for the arrival of the two containers.

The second container, however, arrived first and was parked in the street opposite Export Gate East Wharf. It was kept under close watch. Subsequently, it was brought to NMB Wharf on suspicion when it started moving towards the loading area for customs examination. On examination the container was found to have contained 190 cloth wrapped cartons bearing marks A.E.K. Ellis containing bathrobes with stickers Dome, H&D femly frorre etc. [sentence as published]

The rear portion of the container was found to be fitted with a welded false wall which on unscrewing yielded 1,980 slabs of contraband hashish, each slab weighing one kg. Accordingly, the hashish, truck, container and 190 cartons of bathrobes were seized and suspects were rounded up.

The second container of the same shipper was also examined. It was found to have contained similar cloth-clad cartons with identical markings containing bathrobes destined for Singapore. Customs said it was nothing but a "cover consignment" to manage the shipment of hashish-laden container. It had also been seized.

Soon after the seizure, the Deputy Collector (Headquarters) Javed Kazi briefed the Drug Liaison Officer of USA Michael L. Chapman; German Officer Wolfgang Roder and Netherlands Sajaak Bax at NMB Wharf about the modus operandi adopted by smugglers to smuggle out contraband to Germany via Rotterdam. The Drug Liaison Officers appreciated customs efforts to foil attempt of smuggling and collected details.

Balochistan: Government Warned, Complicity Alleged

91WD0551A Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
28 Feb 91 p 4

[Article: "Powder Politics"]

[Text] The poisonous tentacles of the drug mafia seem to be reaching ever higher levels in Pakistan. It is widely believed that in the last general elections 'powder money' facilitated the entry of some into the National Assembly. Now this newspaper has learnt that three influential Baloch including an MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly], who are among the main accused in a case involving perhaps the biggest heroin seizure anywhere in

the world are trying to buy support—and not too discreetly at that—for their candidates in the upcoming Senate elections. The heroin seizure on Oct. 10 last year and its aftermath are indicative both of the power of the drug barons and the helplessness or indifference of government agencies assigned the task of combating the drug threat. The main accused in the case remain free as a result of having secured bail before arrest. While the government machinery is known to demonstrate remarkable ingenuity when it is a question of putting political opponents behind bars for unspecified periods of time, in this case the provincial government seems content to provide those suspected the maximum benefit of doubt accorded by the law. If anything there are reports of pressure being applied on the narcotics minister and other government officials to drop the charges against the accused. It would hardly be a major surprise if they did get off scot free. After all, the entire setup of the PNCB [Pakistan Narcotics Control Board], Balochistan had, reportedly, refused to investigate the case and sent in a joint leave application to the Chairman, PNCB.

Such reluctance, on the part of those concerned, to move with any degree of determination and effectiveness against the drug mafia is not entirely incomprehensible. For the drug barons now seem to have influence and protection in the higher echelons of power. The escape more than once of key witnesses from high security premises, for instance, is one sure indicator of complicity at high levels. They also command personal armies several hundred strong, equipped with sophisticated weapons and frequently demonstrate their ability to challenge authority. In one case seven Frontier Constabulary jawans were abducted by armed men and taken across the border to Iran. They were subsequently released but only, it seems, after extracting an assurance that anti-smuggling operations in their area will be immediately stopped. More recently, a drug smuggler was snatched away from the police which had brought him to the city courts in Karachi. One policeman died in the encounter. As long as this state of affairs persists and those responsible for checking the drug mafia remain insecure about their own safety and uncertain about the prospects of bringing drug barons to justice, even after they have risked life and limb in cornering them, it would be somewhat unreasonable to expect much zest for the job. The Colombian example of a State seriously challenged by a powerful drug mafia and its social fabric virtually destroyed in the process is before us. We should beware lest Pakistan fall prey to a similar disaster.

Aspects of Drugs Problem Aired

LD0604071991 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program
and Orbita Networks in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Apr 91

["International Situation—Questions and Answers"
program presented by Valentin Gubernatov, All-Union
foreign political commentator, with "my colleagues"
Boris Parkhomenko, Konstantin Patsyuk, Stanislav
Blazhenkov, Sergey Pravdin, and Vladimir Pasko]

[Text] [Gubernatorov] Talking about international
affairs today, we still very often turn to internal prob-
lems. The attention of Mariya Sergeyevna Lukashina
from Kopeysk town in Chelyabinsk Oblast was attracted
by a report from Vienna, broadcast on Mayak in March,
speaking about the warning by one of the leaders of the
UN international program on drug control, the report
said that there is a real danger hanging over the countries
of East Europe including the Soviet Union that they will
in time become a huge illegal market for drugs and
psychotropic substances. Who needs our openness and
freedom of movement. Comrade Lukasheva writes, if
they turn out evil? We have already imported AIDS and
video films, which have nothing in common with our
morals, and now we are threatened with drugs. I have
invited my colleague, commentator Vladimir Pasko, to
the studio to answer this letter.

[Pasko] The question is a serious one, we cannot ignore
it. Unfortunately, many regard perestroika as the cause
of the problems, we have to deal with now, though this is
not the case. It is not perestroika which produced the
problems; the problems brought about the necessity for
perestroika, including perestroika in international
policy. We did not import drug addiction and drug-
dealing into this country. In IZVESTIYA files I have
found a publication of February 1986 which spoke about
a republic seminar on the problem of combating drug-
addiction in Alma-Ata. At that time it was a new theme
for the media, but not for the specialists. The item
contained a lot of interesting information. For example,
that in the republic during all the five previous years,
that is from 1980, the number of drug addicts was
increasing and that Turkmenia, it appeared, introduced
criminal prosecution in the republic for taking drugs and
a lot more. Drug addiction was increasing on our own
soil, and note, this was long before we raised the question
about the necessity of integrating the country into the
international community and establishing wide political

economic and cultural ties. But it is these ties that give us
the possibility of increasing the effectiveness of the
struggle against many evils including drug addiction and
drug dealing, since they are what we are talking about.

[Gubernatorov] Yes, as far as I know, we have already
made considerable steps in this direction. For example,
we have joined Interpol [International Criminal Police
Organization], ratified all international conventions
regarding combating drugs, and concluded many inter-
governmental agreements and also interdepartmental
ones on these basis, that is, a system of international
accords is being created and, what is the most important,
in my view, a system, which, judging by reports of recent
years, has already started operating.

[pasko] You know, Valentin Petrovich, while preparing a
reply to this letter I visited the main customs directorate
under the USSR Council of Ministers. I met people who
are directly dealing with stopping drug smuggling.
Young, energetic, competent and with knowledge of
foreign languages—on the whole, a real joy to look at. So,
since 1986, when the customs was made into a separate
service, in Britain, Canada, Belgium, and Sweden more
than 15 tonnes of drugs have been intercepted and
dozens of participants in the underground business were
arrested, on our advice.

[Gubernatorov] Well, but what do we have to do with all
this? Still it is their drug addiction.

[Pasko] Yes, it is. But, according to the people I talked to,
so far for the international drug mafia we are of interest
only from the point of view of transit. 50,000 containers
a year pass through our country by railroad alone. Half of
them are from drug-producing regions in the world. As a
market we are of no interest so far to the international
drug mafia. You cannot buy much for rubles. However,
we are moving toward a convertible ruble. And then the
situation changes. It was this that the leader of the UN
international program was warning against in the report,
which attracted the attention of our listener. But here the
agreements, which we signed, will start working for us.
They envisage, it must be said, a wide range of cooper-
ation, including exchange of information, training of
specialists and many other things. What is under discus-
sion is the creation of collective protection against drug
dealing. The approach by the professionals toward this
problem is as follows: Drug dealing does not recognize
borders and therefore the struggle against it should be
conducted jointly.

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CANADA

Major Drug Raid Carried Out in Montreal

91WD0596A Montreal LE JOURNAL DE
MONTREAL in French 16 Mar 91 p 3

[Article by Yves Chartrand: "Zero Tolerance: 18 Arrests in Walkley Street"—first paragraph is LE JOURNAL DE MONTREAL introduction]

[Text] The CUM [Montreal City Police] made plain what they meant a month ago when they announced they would show "zero tolerance" toward drug users. It was not an apartment that they searched yesterday evening, but an entire street!

An exceptionally large operation was conducted in the early evening on Walkley Street, which is located between Fielding and Chester Streets in the Notre-Dame-de-Grace quarter, by over 98 policemen of the CUM, the Quebec Criminal Investigation Unit, and the GRC (Canadian Royal Gendarmerie). The area is suspected of being a big crack center.

Some 18 individuals, five of whom were minors and most of whom are members of the Jamaican community, were arrested in six housing units in five different buildings.

One of the officers in charge of the operation, Captain Robert Saint-Jean, said it was part of the "Grisou" (Firedamp) project, which was created to combat drugs in the western sector of central Montreal.

"This operation follows a two- to three-week investigation, during which we accumulated evidence against about ten people. They were arrested this evening. We are talking mainly about crack here," the officer said.

Around 2000 hours, over six police convoys literally cordoned off the sector, quietly, before moving in.

Because of the size of the operation, the CUM management had asked for the assistance of the Intervention Groups of the Quebec Criminal Investigation Unit and the GRC.

According to Claude Morin, a lieutenant-detective in the narcotics section, the illicit world of crack is particularly dangerous.

"All our officers wore their uniforms, for violent burns [as published in English] are common among crack dealers and users. We definitely had to let those people know that we were from the police!"

Moreover, the police were given a good demonstration of how crack addicts are capable of reacting.

Seeing the police arrive in the front, one individual literally threw himself out the window of a second-floor unit in an attempt to flee. Two policemen were waiting for him on the balcony.

Generally speaking, the searches were conducted without any clashes.

Nonetheless, tear gas had to be employed in one place to flush out ten suspects, for their main door was protected by a solid metal grating.

The police also found three fully loaded hand guns there.

After the arrests, specialists began to methodically search each of the six housing units. Around midnight, 20 "rocks" of crack, several grams of hashish and marijuana, syringes, and cocaine were found.

This section of Walkley Street, with its garbage lining the sidewalk, looks more like an arterial in the Bronx, New York, than a "peaceful" street in the N.D.G. quarter.

The chief building inspector for the city of Montreal, Michel d'Orsonnans, was busy having the raided units boarded up by carpenters.

"This suits the owners fine. Most of them have lost control of their property and do not even dare come around any longer to collect their rents," he said.

GREECE

Drug Gang Apprehended

NC1304191391 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1830 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Yesterday Attiki security broke up a large gang trafficking in drugs. Stathis Konstandinos, the brains behind the group, was arrested while trying to transport 480 kg of processed Indian hemp to Italy. Ippokratis Ioannou Exarkhopoulos, an unemployed musician, was arrested for possession of heroin. Known by his stage name, Charlie, he was head of the former musical group Nostradamus. Ioannis Athanasiou Stavropoulos and Dhionisios Grigoriou were arrested with him.

NORWAY

Afghan Asylum Seeker Jailed for Smuggling

91WD0561C Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian
8 Mar 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Asylum-Seeker Charged in Narcotics Case"]

[Text] A 35-year-old asylum-seeker from Afghanistan has been jailed in connection with the exposure of a comprehensive drug plot in Tonsberg. The police suspect the man of having smuggled and sold heroin for upwards of 10 million kroner. For the time being, the Afghan has been charged with the smuggling and sale of 1 km of heroin. The quantity corresponds to 40,000 user doses. The 35-year-old man denies any knowledge of the smuggling. He has been taken into custody for eight weeks. The man was previously sentenced to three years'

imprisonment in the Netherlands for smuggling heroin and hashish. At the time, he operated under a different identity.

16 Jailed for Hash, Amphetamine Trafficking

91WD0561A Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian
25 Feb 91 p 2

[Article by Haakon Benn-Schroder and Norhild Midtbo: "16 Jailed in Major Drug Seizure"—first paragraph is ARBEIDERBLADET introduction]

[Text] Bergen/Oslo: A major narcotics ring is in the process of being exposed, and up to now 16 persons have been taken into custody in Bergen and Oslo.

Sixteen persons have been taken into custody after the police have exposed another major drug case, starting in Bergen and Oslo. The ring is suspected of being behind the smuggling and trafficking of between 60 and 70 kilos of hash and several kilos of amphetamines. The case has top priority, but the police are sparing of information. Several persons are under surveillance, and the police expect more arrests. There is reason to believe that the drug ring smuggled amphetamines and hash from Amsterdam to Bergen via Oslo. The police believe that they have smuggled between 60 and 70 kilos of hash, though a considerably smaller quantity of amphetamines, into the country.

Five in Oslo

Harald Normann, acting drug chief in the Oslo Police confirms that the first arrests took place well over a week ago. "On account of the investigation, we have closed the lid on this, but it is clear that it is a comprehensive case," Normann tells ARBEIDERBLADET. Svein Erik Krogvold, detective in the Bergen Police, tells BERGENS ARBEIDERBLAD that the police have been working on the case for a long time.

"It is a comprehensive case that we are now exposing, and on account of the further investigation, there is little that I can say for the time being," Krogvold says.

Joint Case

It is a major case and, as far as West Norway is concerned, the largest one ever. Harald Normann says that it has no relation to the biggest drug case in the history of Norway but that it is a considerable case.

"It is a comprehensive case, and it is a joint case for Bergen and Oslo. Actually, the only difference is that some have been arrested here and others over there," he says.

Distribution

It is believed that some of the drugs have been redistributed from Bergen to another municipality in Hordaland. In addition, drugs have been sent to Sogn og Fjordane. A person is in custody in Sogn, while five persons have

been arrested in Oslo and ten in Bergen in connection with the case. A total of 16 persons have been taken into custody in this comprehensive case.

Some of those who have been taken into custody in Bergen are familiar to the police and have been previously sentenced for drug crimes. One of the suspects is known to the police and has served a severe drug sentence of eleven years.

In Secret

The police have been working on the case secretly for the last six months. The police in Bergen started their mass arrests one and a half week ago. All of those arrested were taken into custody for four weeks and were prohibited from receiving letters and visits.

A Bergen couple in their thirties, living in Amsterdam, is believed to be the key figures in the drug case.

17-Year-Old Jailed for LSD Smuggling

91WD0561B Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian
28 Feb 91 p 6

[Unattributed report: "17-Year-Old Sentenced to Imprisonment for LSD Smuggling"]

[Text] Last Wednesday, the Gulating Superior Court sitting with a jury sentenced a 17-year-old boy to two years' imprisonment for smuggling one kg of amphetamines and 500 LSD doses from Amsterdam to Norway. The boy's 29-year-old uncle got a six-year sentence for several cases of trafficking and use of drugs as well as for fencing a stamp collection worth 100,000-200,000 kroner. The jury did not believe the boy's assertion that he had received the amphetamines from an unknown man in Amsterdam. The court believes that the boy's mother used her son as a courier and that the uncle was to receive the drugs when they got into Norway. The court, however, found several extenuating circumstances which contributed to a lighter sentence for the boy than the prosecutor's request for a three-year sentence.

7 Tried in Amphetamine Trafficking Case

91WD0589A Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian
19 Mar 91 p 4

[Article by May Britt Broyn: "Seven Men Accused of Drug Dealing"]

[Text] Seven men aged 24 to 36 are now standing trial in Eidsivating Circuit Court for the widespread smuggling and resale of amphetamines.

The case began to unravel when a 21-year-old turned himself into Stockholm police last summer.

According to the indictment, the alleged ring leader, a 26-year-old Swede, is supposed to have masterminded

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the smuggling and peddling of two shipments of amphetamines from Sweden to Norway between February 1989 and summer 1990.

The Swede was serving a sentence in Sarpsborg County Jail when he became acquainted with the 21-year-old who later turned himself into police. When the 21-year-old was released, he got work as a courier and smuggled amphetamines into Norway. The drugs were sold mainly in the Sarpsborg district where, according to police, the other defendants took charge of further distribution. But yesterday only a couple of these defendants admitted having had anything to do with the drugs.

According to District Attorney Lars Fronsdal, the 21-year-old courier found himself in a hopeless situation after the drugs had been introduced into Norway.

"He resold them on credit, which is common in these cases. But the money wasn't coming in the way it was supposed to. Finally, he saw no alternative but to go to Sweden and turn himself in to police," said Fronsdal.

The 21-year-old laid all his cards on the table, and just a few days later the other defendants were arrested. The 21-year-old is the prosecution's main witness against the other defendants. Judgment on his own case was passed in magistrate's court last December.

This has elicited a sharp reaction from lawyers for the other defendants, and attorney Jens Ove Hagen brought the matter up again in court yesterday. According to Fronsdal, the 21-year-old avoided standing trial with the other defendants in circuit court because of fear that the latter would retaliate.

PORTUGAL

Large-Scale Hashish Network Dismantled

91WD0605A Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 19 Mar 91 p 17

[Text] The Customs Guard [GF] and the Criminal Investigations Police [PJ] discovered, captured, and dismantled nearly an entire hashish network operating in Portugal. The GF seized 2,200 kg of hashish, and the PJ took 13 persons implicated in the network to jail.

At the same time that the GF was intercepting a trawler arriving from Morocco and bound for Portugal, confiscating nearly two tons and 200 kg of hashish and arresting five crew members, the PJ, which had been keeping the network under close surveillance for almost six months, arrested eight implicated persons in Peniche. The latter were industrialists and merchants between 23 and 38 years old from the Lisbon and Braga areas. Two of them, one of the crew members, and one of the merchants were Spanish.

The trawler, the *Joi*, registered in Peniche and currently being used as a recreational boat, had as its last-known owner an individual named Pereira da Silva, residing in Valadares (Gaia).

The vessel was detected nearly 11 miles south of Vila Real de Santo Antonio, in the Algarve, by the GF. After seizing it, that agency, in cooperation with the PJ, kept it under surveillance to Lisbon.

The discovery and seizure took place at dawn on Friday.

Simultaneously, the PJ, having learned that other members of the network were meeting in Peniche, probably awaiting the arrival of the drugs, acted quickly so as to prevent their escape.

The eight arrests in Peniche were made early Friday morning and have already been confirmed by the court.

Sophisticated Equipment

The *Joi*, with a gross burden of 6,259 tons, was equipped with all the technical facilities required to perform the task for which it was selected. The PJ thinks that it was owned by the network. Besides two high-resolution radars, it had a satellite navigation system and was also equipped with two citizens band radio sets.

The engines had been inspected quite recently, according to a GF technician. In addition, the holds, previously used for fish, between the bridge and the bow, were nearly all filled with supplementary gas oil tanks. This gave the trawler *Joi* a long cruising range.

The PJ revealed that the ship had on two previous occasions attempted to "import" the same amount of hashish, but that stormy weather and an accident precluded this.

The surveillance to which the network was subjected prompted the expectation that the entry of a large volume of drugs into the country would be attempted, perhaps even more than what has now been seized.

It is also known that the drug network was operating with two boats, and that a second trawler may have managed to evade the authorities' surveillance.

Killing One Bird With Two Stones

Goncalves de Carvalho, from the Central Drug-Trafficking Investigation Directorate [DCITE], at a press conference during which he explained the role played by the PJ, underscored the good relations between the GF and the PJ. He also made a point of explaining that the PJ's goal is far more "to dismantle networks than to seize drugs," whereas "the GF has a different mission, that of confiscating drugs." In this instance, with the GF acting on the one hand, and the PJ keeping surveillance for six months on the other, one might well say, contrary to the proverb, that it was a case of "killing one bird with two stones."

Although unable to disclose many more details because the investigations are continuing, the PJ, through the DCITE, revealed that the drugs were not all intended for consumption in our country but were meant to continue on to markets in Central Europe.

The hashish was packed in individual 250-gram tablets, contained in waterproof wrappers. These were accumulated in larger volumes, weighing nearly 35 kg, also wrapped in waterproof material and sealed with strong clasps.

This type of packaging is used so as to be able to throw the bundles overboard, tied to a cable, with an anchor and a signal buoy of the type used to indicate fishing nets, in order to allow for their subsequent retrieval.

Therefore, as we were informed by the GF, the drugs trailed behind the Joi, and it remains to be seen whether a line of hashish bundles is still waiting to be "fished out again."

Spanish Cooperation

Although the manner in which it was achieved is not quite clear, it is certain that there was cooperation on the part of the neighboring country's customs services in this operation. At least this can be inferred from the level of information reaching the GF, thus enabling it to intercept the Joi.

There must have been some reason that the GF launch, with radar of smaller range than the type with which the trawler was equipped, was able to approach the latter without being detected. Or it may have been the speed of the operation that prevented the vessel from escaping, or even from dropping its cargo into the sea.

Italian's Assassination Raises Questions

91WD0613A Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese
28 Mar 91 p 27

[Text] Mario Iovine may have taken advantage of his sojourn in Portugal to control close at hand the passage through our country of drugs bound for Europe.

Cocaine in undetermined quantities, arriving from Brazil and packed in refrigerated trucks for frozen fish, may have crossed Portugal en route to Central Europe during the period in which the Iovine family head, recently assassinated in Cascais, was staying in our country.

The Portuguese and Italian authorities know about the connections this Neapolitan Mafia family has with Brazilian cocaine producers and middlemen.

Hence, they accept the hypothesis that the trafficking network controlled by Iovine may, during recent months, have had several kg of cocaine shipped through Portugal, evading police surveillance.

A fish import and export firm with headquarters in Brazil, owned by Mario Iovine's female companion, Rosangeli Goncalves Mendonca, may have been involved in the business.

In the case involving Mario Iovine's drug-trafficking network, the authorities suspect that the cocaine reached the Portuguese coast by an ocean route, packed in fish containers.

The drugs were later transported in refrigerated trucks to several Central European countries.

The cleverness of this trafficking method was indicated by a judicial source as being based on the meager inspection that the authorities conduct on light trucks carrying frozen fish. This is due to the fact that, when they open the doors to check, the products being carried run the risk of spoiling.

Strategic Platform

Judicial sources contacted by O JORNAL admitted that this is an ingenious process often used by international drug dealers, and probably by the Iovine family, to have drugs shipped through Portugal and Spain.

There are also investigators who admit the existence of a contract between that Camorra chief and smugglers in the Galician city of Vigo, who own a veritable fleet of "speedboats."

The preference that Mario Iovine showed for Portugal by purchasing a house in our country may, nevertheless, have been due not merely to security reasons, inasmuch as he was wanted by INTERPOL, and his own relations with other Mafia families did not appear very cordial after the sudden disappearance of the Bardellino family chief.

An attempt to monopolize the passage of drugs through the Iberian Peninsula is a motive to be considered. According to our sources, it is one that Mario Iovine may not have disregarded.

His death, besides possibly being a settlement of accounts, could represent an attempt by other Mafia families to gain control of the passage of drugs through our country and Spain. They are aware of the difficulties encountered by the authorities in making inspections, and of the peninsula's advantageous geographical position.

Mysterious Tattoos

The significance of the two animal tattoos on Mario Iovine's right leg, which well-informed sources admit were made during the period when he was in jail, has not yet been totally explained.

The designs consist of a bald-headed eagle with folded wings, of bright blue color, visible in the right thigh area, and a wounded black panther with red spots, painted on the lower leg area.

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The same judicial sources suggested the possibility that the tattoos may have been made during the period of "on-the-spot action" because Mario Iovine, before becoming chief of his own family, had been an "operative" for other Mafia families and had even been imprisoned.

Our sources also commented: "The religious cult and the clan itself prompt operatives, on the basis of the hypothesis that some day they will be killed, to have symbols or signs on their bodies allowing for their identification."

The bald eagle with folded wings, used by members of the Brazilian extreme right wing, also arouses suspicion of possible connections this Mafia chief may have maintained in that area.

In Brazil, the organization's members often have designed on their bodies an eagle representing their ideal, and, later, depending on the type of activity in which they are engaged (drugs, smuggling, politics), the image of another animal.

SPAIN

Antinarcotics Activities: 4-10 Apr

LD1104015491

[Editorial Report] Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0900 GMT on 5 Apr reported that the Madrid police have seized over 100 kg of cocaine, which a gang of Colombian drug traffickers was trying to distribute in Spain. Several people of Colombian nationality have been arrested, although at the moment their number and identity are not known. The drugs had been smuggled into Spain concealed in swimming pool equipment, bathtubs, and bathroom furniture. On the black market, the seized drugs would have had a value of some 5 billion pesetas, according to the police.

Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT on 6 Apr stated that in Madrid, the police have arrested 10 people of different nationalities connected with a suspected international drug gang apparently led by Turks. In this latest operation, the police seized nearly five kg of heroin, a smaller amount of cocaine, and 8 million pesetas. The gang operated and distributed the drugs in the central area of the capital. The investigation that resulted in the breakup of this drug gang began on Wednesday, 3 April, and most of the drugs were seized on Thursday from a refrigerator in a hotel room in Villalba.

Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT on 6 Apr announced that officers from the police station at Barajas Airport have arrested five people carrying three and a half kg of cocaine concealed in their bodies.

Colombian Cocaine Found in Water Pumps

91WD0576A Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 16 Mar 91
p 18—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Article by Jesus Duva: "250 Kg of Cocaine Seized in Water Pumps Imported From Colombia"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] The Civil Guard seized 250 kilos of cocaine hidden inside the metallic cylinders of 41 water pumps imported from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was perfectly concealed inside metal components that left the factory hermetically sealed. According to the Civil Guard, it was "impossible to discover the drug because the cylinder was wrapped in a coating of lead that prevented X-raying its contents."

Madrid—To date three Colombians and three Spaniards have been arrested by agents of the Judicial Group of the 112th District Headquarters (Madrid-perimeter) and the 512th District Headquarters (Bilbao) as a result of ongoing investigations aimed at breaking up a drug-trafficking organization with its based in the Basque Country.

The cocaine arrived in Bilbao from Colombia aboard a merchant ship not connected with the operation. The drug had been camouflaged within a shipment of hydraulic equipment. The shipment was introduced into Spain by an equipment and tools firm for farm and livestock use.

The Civil Guard estimates that the contraband consisted of several hundred kilos of cocaine. Part of the shipment was distributed from Bilbao to various European countries, and the rest was transported to an industrial park at Arganda, a locality situated some 30 kilometers from Madrid, where a Spaniard had leased a ship, using false documents.

Agents of the 112th District Headquarters surprised three Colombians aboard the ship at Arganda, one of whom is a farm owner who was presumably sent by capos at Bogota to handle the distribution of the drug in Madrid.

Civil Guard General Headquarters declined to reveal the identities of the arrested individuals, since the judge at Bilbao has placed the proceedings, which he is conducting concurrently with those of the court in Arganda, under a judicial seal of secrecy. However, it is very probable that the National Tribunal will issue the indictment.

According to sources close to the investigation, "the traffickers were seeking clients right and left," indicating that the ring had not yet succeeded in making contact with other smaller networks.

The cocaine that was seized was of a high degree of purity and could have been sold on the street for a total of 10 billion pesetas.

The method used to conceal the drug was apparently perfect: inside the metal cylinders corresponding to the rotor of the water pumps. These metal parts had been lined with an outer coating of lead that prevented them from being X-rayed. "And the most interesting fact is that the pump actually worked," said a Civil Guard spokesman.

All of the parts left the factory hermetically sealed, with the drug concealed inside of them. The agents had to resort to using a radial saw and electric welding equipment to open the cylinders in order to extract the cocaine.

SWITZERLAND

Organized Crime, Money-Laundering Measures Seen

91WR0167A Zurich (International Edition) in German 17-18 Mar 91 p 28—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Article by U.M. [Urs Marti]: "Supplementary Measures To Fight Money Laundering: Stronger Measures To Discourage Organized Crime"; first paragraph is NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG introduction]

[Text] Bern, 15 March—The Federal Executive Council intends to fight money laundering and organized crime more effectively by establishing the fact that criminal organizations constitute an offense, by opening up the range of what can be confiscated, by giving bankers the right to notify the authorities, and by prosecuting institutions involved in money laundering. Proposals to this effect are on their way to a public debate involving interested parties.

On August 1, 1990 legislation was passed to combat money laundering. Already during the parliamentary debate over this legislation, the point was made that an effective war against internationally organized crime would require additional legal tools. This is why the Federal Department of Justice and Police is putting up for discussion a second package with supplementary measures. Cantons, political parties, and other interested parties can express their opinions in this regard until June 30.

Criminal Organizations

Switzerland is still one of the countries that does not recognize the existence of criminal organizations. This hampers the exchange of law enforcement assistance, especially with regard to the United States and other European countries. A first attempt to introduce the concept of criminal organizations met opposition in 1989 when violent crimes were under official discussion. Then, the discussion focused on the "punishment of intentions"; the present proposal is quite different in this respect. Not intentions, but active support of dangerous organizations is to be punished (with up to five years in prison.) A criminal organization requires the association

of at least three persons who have committed previous crimes and who can objectively be shown to have undertaken arrangements to commit further crimes. If somebody involved in such an organization tries to prevent further illegal acts, this person then can count on a reduced sentence. Drug trafficking, illegal arms trade, and bribery have led to a strong expansion of organized crime over the past few years. The economic volume of the drug trade is being compared to that of the legal oil business. The danger of organized crime is due in particular to its high level of division of labor, its tight structure, and its international mobility. This is why an efficient offensive against drug trafficking requires international cooperation from the start.

Federal Councillor Koller said in a press conference last Friday that in his opinion the confiscation of illegally obtained property is the most effective way to fight organized crime. In order to confiscate property, existing laws require four-fold proof: First, the offense itself must be proven; then the fact that the accused has transferred profits gained from the offense into his personal account; next comes proof of the amount of assets transferred; and finally proof of the fact that the amounts to be confiscated are indeed those that were acquired illegally. This chain of evidence has in many instances overtaxed the justice system. The proposed revision does not wave the repeated demand to reverse the burden of proof, but it does provide for substantially easier ways to come up with that proof. If an illegal act can be proven and is subject to the confiscation of illegally acquired property, consecutive acts can then trigger confiscation based on less rigorous evidence. It is the objective of money laundering to cover the tracks that lead to the offense. Only a few "laundering cycles" can leave the trail leading to an offense unrecognizable. The purpose behind easing the burden of proof, once an illegal act has been committed, is to counteract this effect.

The Banker's Right To Notify Authorities

A third revision intends to introduce a banker's right to notify authorities. Councilman Koller personally thinks it would go too far if bankers were forced to notify authorities; but he has no illusions that the proposed revision will draw criticism too during the open debate. Under the revised proposal, people working in the banking sector can report suspicious transactions to the authorities without being charged with breaking banking secrecy. A "Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering" which was formed by the G-7 countries (the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan) and eight other countries, including Switzerland, support such a right of notification. A minority even favors the idea of making it a duty to notify the authorities. Such a duty, however, would be very alien to the Swiss legal concept, because it would in effect transfer police functions to the banker, and in addition such a system would require an oversight

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authority of some kind. The right to notify the authorities would permit the violation of banking and transaction secrecy whenever observations lead to the conclusion that certain assets originate from a crime. In addition, the right to notify the authorities could be of advantage to a banker who does not immediately become aware of suspect transactions and thus may actually be committing money laundering himself, even if he should choose to terminate business relations by buying his way out in cash.

Responsible Institutions

Punishment presupposes personal guilt. Experiences with money laundering, however, have shown that certain gaps exist concerning this point. A new provision advocates punishing the institution itself if money laundering has occurred within its sphere of responsibility. Sanctions that might be invoked against institutions if a felony is involved include cash payments up to ten million Swiss francs, and up to five million francs in case of a misdemeanor. In addition, certain business activities could be forbidden either for a limited time or forever. A worst case scenario could lead to the liquidation of the institution.

Fewer Criminal Records

Federal Councillor Koller is convinced that these proposals will discourage organized crime. In addition, yet separate from these proposals, he is submitting to a second open debate a series of proposals that would reduce the entry of punishments and measures. Simple violations are no longer to be recorded in the penal register. This would mean a decrease of 12,000 new entries of a total of 70,000 entries per year. Penalties and probationary prison terms up to three months would be removed from the register after five years, prison sentences of from three months to 18 months (with probationary terms of one to two years) would be removed from the record after 10 years. This means that 13,000 penalty records could be removed for good after six to seven years instead of the usual 15 years. In addition, those penal registers of cantons which record fines of 80 to 500 francs in cases of traffic violations are to be discontinued. In 1988, the Canton of Zurich alone registered 97,500 new sentences and fines, 46,371 of which were fines. Only those violations which have led to administrative measures (driver's license suspension, warnings) are to be registered from now on.

TURKEY**Suspects Captured, Heroin Seized in Narcotics Operations**

TA1304072791 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
2000 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Editorial Report] Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish at 2000 GMT on 6 April reports that security forces

captured 23 suspects involved in various robbery and drug smuggling incidents in Istanbul and Bursa.

A statement issued by the Istanbul Security Directorate General on this subject says that "in operations conducted against groups and gangs involved in various robbery and drug-smuggling incidents in Istanbul and Bursa, 23 suspects were captured together with stolen goods and six pistols.

"In searches conducted in their houses, 500 gm of heroin and 1 kg of material used in producing heroin, 50 rounds of ammunition, and various stolen goods were seized. An investigation into the incidents is continuing."

Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish at 1000 GMT on 11 April reports that security forces seized 14 kg of heroin in a car on the Van-Bitlis highway. Two persons were detained in connection with the incident. The heroin was found in a secret compartment in the [word indistinct].

5 Kg Heroin Seized in Gebze, 2 Suspects Detained

TA0604064191 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
0900 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Kocaeli (A.A)—Police have seized five kilograms of pure heroin and detained two people in this northwestern province, security officials said on Monday.

They said police, disguised as buyers, contacted two smugglers and detained them with five kilograms of heroin when the drug was brought for delivery at Gebze township. [passage omitted]

UNITED KINGDOM**Pakistani Plots Heroin Smuggling, Jailed**

91WD0607A London THE TIMES in English
9 Mar 91 p 4—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] A millionaire drug dealer was jailed for 20 years yesterday, and his accomplice, a milkman, was sentenced to 16 years after being found guilty at Southwark crown court of plotting to smuggle 20 kilograms of heroin, with a street value of £3.5 million, to Britain from Pakistan.

Judge Laurie said that anyone smuggling drugs worth over £1 million could expect a prison term of at least 14 years.

The pair were filmed in a London hotel as they planned distribution of the drugs after being lured into a video trap by customs officers following a tip-off. The millionaire, Mohammed Shahzad, aged 32 and described as a respected merchant from Lahore, Pakistan, was the organiser of the racket, and Kualid Latif, aged 37, a milkman, of Saltley, Birmingham, was his link man.

Foreign Smugglers Flee UK Prisons

91WD0608A London *THE GUARDIAN* in English
11 Mar 91 p 8—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Article by David Hencke, Westminster correspondent]

[Text] Twenty-two foreign drug smugglers have absconded from open prisons and gone to ground to avoid deportation.

Nearly all are women from Nigeria and Jamaica. Some convicted of smuggling hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of cocaine and heroin into Heathrow absconded after serving only a few months of six or eight year sentences, and are living incognito without passports.

Others owe the courts up to £18,500 in confiscation orders. Drug rings often use women as "mules" because they are thought less likely to attract suspicion.

An internal Whitehall memorandum, obtained in December by Alan Williams, Labour MP [member of Parliament] for Swansea West, lists 26 foreign drug smugglers—including the 22—all of whom were arrested at Heathrow and have absconded since 1987.

Twenty-four are women, and most of them absconded from Drake Hall, Staffordshire and East Sutton Park, near Maidstone, Kent.

Only two out of the 24 have been recaptured. Details relating to two others have not yet been released by the Home Office.

Parliamentary questions tabled by Mr Williams have been stonewalled by the Home Office, which said information about whether any had been recaptured was "too expensive to collect."

Then the Parliamentary Table Office, which rules on whether MPs' questions to ministers are acceptable, blocked a question from Mr Williams to Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, which would have provided a comprehensive answer about the fate of the 26. Instead the MP was "rationed" to obtaining information on three or four people at a time and restricted to four questions a week.

In two cases investigated in detail by *THE GUARDIAN* involving Jamaican drug smugglers, one woman absconded after serving three months of an eight-year sentence and another seven months of a six-year sentence.

The Home Office is unable to give figures for absconders originally arrested at other points of entry, such as Gatwick or the main Channel ports, or Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham airports where smuggling has increased noticeably.

The growing number of absconders has caused concern at Customs and Excise.

Mr Williams last night called for a Home Office inquiry into the escapes and the failure of the police to recapture the prisoners.

"The difficulty I have had in obtaining information suggests that the 'law and order' department is engaged in an embarrassed cover-up.

"When drug abuse is supposed to be a major target we have drug smugglers walking out of front doors from open prisons.

"Women whose offences are serious enough to deserve five and six-year sentences have been allowed to go walkabout within months of being sentenced.

"All of these escaped prisoners are from overseas and their passports have been taken from them.

"How could they just disappear?"

Mr Williams's inquiries have also uncovered figures showing a huge rise in absconding overall from open prisons—from 680 in 1989 to 1,148 last year.

The Home Office says it has no explanation for the growing number of drug smugglers absconding, since they are not regarded as a high security risk.

No pattern has emerged to suggest why the women are absconding and the Home Office does not know whether the smugglers are being "sprung" by organised groups.

A new law in Nigeria forcing convicted drug smugglers to serve a further sentence when they are repatriated does not explain other nationalities escaping.

Drug smugglers are normally sent to a closed prison at first, then to an open prison to complete their sentences.

Angela Rumbold, the minister responsible for prisons, had been told by officials that the absconders were people serving the last part of their sentences. One absconded with 14 days to serve.

Inquiries by *THE GUARDIAN* concerning five absconders showed they had served only a minute proportion of their sentence, were all to be deported and had been involved in smuggling either heroin or cocaine.

Karen Rhoden, a 24-year-old Jamaican charged with smuggling £55,000 of cocaine, was sentenced to eight years on 6 October 1988.

She absconded from Drake Hall, Staffordshire on 24 January 1989, having served just over three months.

Tawakality Jaiyesimi, a 29-year-old Nigerian, was sentenced to six years for heroin smuggling on 4 February 1988, but absconded from Drake Hall on 3 February 1989.

Abiedun Kafo, a 25-year-old Nigerian, sentenced to six years' imprisonment on 1 July 1988, for heroin smuggling, absconded on 21 September 1989 and Uche Okeke, a 32-year-old Nigerian, sentenced on 21 July 1988, to seven years for smuggling half a kilo of heroin, absconded on 30 November 1989.

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